FREE PRINTABLE · AGES 9 TO 13

Source Detective Checklist

Ask these six questions about any object, letter, photo or map. Tick each box when you can answer it.
Name: _____ Source I am checking: _____

☐ **1. What is it?**

☐ **2. When was it made?**

☐ **3. Who made it, and why?**

☐ **4. What does it show?**

☐ **5. What can it NOT show?**

☐ **6. Does another source agree?**

What kind of evidence is it? Circle one.

- **Made at the time** — made when it happened
- **Written later** — someone looking back
- **Scientific finding** — measured or tested
- **Modern reconstruction** — a model made today

Detective rule: *say what the source shows, and what it cannot show.*

Worked example on the web page: the Rosetta Stone, 196 BC.
Want more depth? Free worksheets from the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

Free from Honest Little Apps · makers of PastRush: History Detective for iPhone · Copy freely for home and classroom use.