

Ancient Civilizations of Africa—Egypt **Social Studies Skills**
Study

Analyzing Primary and Secondary Sources

LEARN THE SKILL

Primary sources give us information from people who were present at the time an event took place. Some examples of primary sources include letters, diaries, newspaper articles, and photographs. Secondary sources describe events that an author has studied and researched, using primary sources to do so. Your textbook is a secondary source that also contains examples of primary sources.

PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL

1. You want to find out about the lives of American cowboys in the 1800s. You have found two possible sources of information so far. *Rio Bravo* is a movie starring John Wayne that was made in 1959. *Twenty Years on the Trail* is the diary of a retired rancher who died in 1911. Which would be a more reliable source? Why?

2. You have been assigned to give a presentation on the population growth of your state over the last 50 years. You don't know much about this subject. Identify two primary sources and two secondary sources that you could rely on to provide you with accurate information. Write the titles of the sources on the lines below. Then analyze the four sources and identify one fact from each that you could include in a presentation. Write the four facts on index cards and share them with the class.
