Primary and Secondary Source Worksheet

Pretend you are writing a report on the history of mining in Idaho from 1860-1890. During your research you came across many different sources. Look at each source and try to decide whether it is a primary or secondary source.

- 1) A diary written by a miner named Lucky Noah who lived in Idaho in the 1870's. Primary or Secondary?
- 2) A Time Magazine article from 1980 titled "Mining in the West". Primary or Secondary?
- 3) The textbook you use in class to study Idaho history has a chapter on mining. Primary or Secondary?
- 4) An original photograph of a Silver City mine from 1880 that you found in your grandparents photo album. Primary or Secondary?
- 5) A gold pan that was used in 1872 that you saw at the Idaho Historical Museum. Primary or Secondary?
- 6) A book published in 1992 that you found in the library titled "Digging Deep: The Complete Story of Mining in Idaho." Primary or Secondary?
- 7) A complete copy of an original government document called "Idaho Mining Laws of 1875" that you found on the Idaho Historical Society web site. Primary or Secondary?
- 8) A web site called "The Complete Internet Encyclopedia" that has a page about mining. Primary or Secondary?
- 9) Sheet music for a song called "No Gold Nuggets for Me" written by a musician in Idaho City and published in 1888. Primary or Secondary?
- 10) A map of "Ghost Towns and Gold Mines of Idaho" first published in 1977 that you found in your local book store. Primary or Secondary?