



Name _____

Class Period _____

Date _____

Beyond the Sources • *Eva McDonald Valesh*

Using the information you gather on the web site, answer the following questions about the unit.

1. Primary sources like these about Eva Valesh can tell us much about a person's life, economic situation, family, work, and activities. If you were to write a biography of Valesh's life, what other information would you need that is not given in these sources?

In what other sources do you think you could find that information?

2. Valesh was a woman who didn't fit into the role that many people of her time expected a woman to play. Which of the sources you viewed might suggest that this was true?

What kinds of things do these sources tell us about her own attitude about her role as a woman and what was expected of her?

3. Primary sources are not always factually reliable. In Valesh's letter to her friend (Letter 2) she lies about her age by incorrectly stating the year of her birth. How does this affect your confidence in what she wrote in the rest of the letter or in her diary?

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If you can prove that a source is not completely accurate, do you think it is still useful? Why or why not?

4. There are a number of things to consider when using a diary or reminiscence as a primary source in your research. Why might a diary or reminiscence not be completely accurate?

Do you think other people could have remembered an event differently than Valesh did?

Could she have a personal opinion about an event that might be different from someone else's?

What other sources could help you determine how accurate her description of an event might be?
