

Lesson 4.3 U.S. Vital Records Evaluate
Activity: Evaluating Vital Records
Answer Key

Part 1: Anna Bell Bear Birth Record

1. 9 October 1886.
2. Washington, Shelby, Ohio.
3. J. W. Bear and L. M. Dehaven.
4. Yes. She is born in the right time period in the right state. She is also born to parents who seem to match the parents we previously knew about from the census.
5. It is hard to tell if this information is primary or secondary. It is more likely to be primary, as her parents are likely reporting the information to be recorded.
6. There are many possible answers to this question. You may have included:
 - a. Censuses for Anna and her parents starting in 1900.
 - b. Other vital records for Anna in Shelby, Ohio.
 - c. Land records for "J.W.," her father (His residence is in Washington).
 - d. Etc.

Part 2: Anna Bell Bear Marriage Record

1. Cleveland O Davidson.
2. Jacob Davidson and Lavancia Polter.
3. 6 June 1884.
4. Pieces of the information match. Others do not:
 - a. Birthplace: not a match (says she is born in Frederick, Maryland)
 - b. Birth Date: 9 October 1886.
 - c. Father: John Baer
 - d. Mother: Laura DeHaven
5. 22 December 1907. (Remember to look for a certified section, not just the license.)
6. Some of the information is primary and some of the information is secondary.
 - a. Primary: Marriage Details (recorded by someone who was there).
 - b. Secondary: Birth information (recorded by secondhand knowledge).
7. There are many records you could find based on this information. For example:
 - a. For Cleveland Davidson:
 - i. Birth Record
 - ii. Census records in his parent's household
 - iii. Land records (purchased land as a married man)
 - b. For both:
 - i. Census records starting in 1910 for the couple.
 - ii. Death records (using the married names)