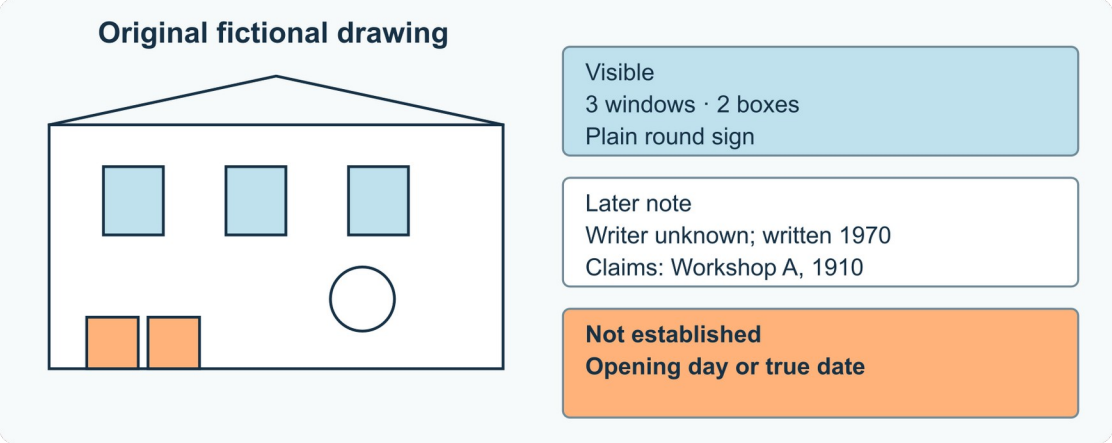
Separate a picture from its caption

Which claim comes from visible detail and which depends on a record?

Compare what an original drawing shows with claims supplied by a separate caption.

Investigate | 10–20 minutes, or one small comparison | Scrap paper and a pencil or pen, The supplied original model; no account, purchase or online search needed

Start here Look at the invented workshop drawing: three windows and two boxes beside a plain round sign.



Visible, reported and unknown

1 Record visible details

Describe the windows, boxes and sign. The drawing itself contains no readable date or place name.

2 Read a separate label

A fictional note written in 1970 calls the scene Workshop A, 1910. Its writer is unknown. This is a record claim, not something visible in the drawing.

3 Test another caption

Try Opening day at Workshop A. Nothing supplied establishes an opening day. Label that phrase unconfirmed rather than treating it as an observation.

4 Write a careful label

Combine a visible description with the attributed note and its uncertainty. A short label can still make the evidence boundary clear.

Original model a drawing and a later note

The picture, workshop, dates and note are all fictional; this is not an archival photograph.

• Visible: three windows, two boxes and a plain circular sign.

• Supplied note: an unknown writer in 1970 labelled the scene Workshop A, 1910.

• Not established: whether 1910 is correct or whether the scene shows an opening day.

What this example can show A later caption can be useful but is not automatically accurate. Appearance alone does not supply the maker, location or date.

A different way

Point to the supplied image, dictate a label or sort statements into visible, reported and unknown. Personal photographs are unnecessary.

If you want to go further

Write two careful captions for different purposes: a short display label and a fuller research note. Keep the same uncertainty in both.

Something to notice

Did my caption make an interpretation look like a visible fact?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Photographs Clues

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/photographs-clues/

Horizon topic Place Histories

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/place-histories/

Horizon topic Evidence Archives

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/evidence-archives/

Library of Congress Teacher's guide: Analyzing Photographs and Prints

https://www.loc.gov/static/programs/teachers/getting-started-with-primary-sources/documents/Analyzing_Photographs_and_Prints.pdf

National Archives of Australia Research skills

https://www.naa.gov.au/learn/learning-resources/research-skills