

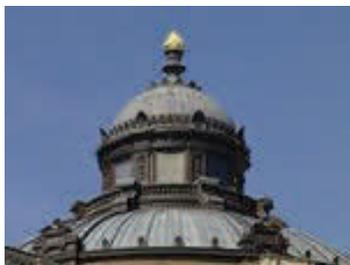
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Primary Sources from the Library of Congress

Quick Start Guide

1. **Outline your lesson**—Consider the content and skills goals you have for your students, as well as their learning styles, reading levels, prior knowledge, and other factors applicable to lesson design.
2. **Choose primary sources**—Start at the Teachers Page [www.loc.gov/teachers]. In addition to classroom-tested lessons on popular topics, you'll find themed primary source sets. Or, conduct your own search online among the millions of FREE primary source materials from the Library of Congress.

Primary source sets include letters, speeches, maps, photographs, newspaper articles, sheet music, film footage, posters, drawings, political cartoons and more:



Abraham Lincoln:
Rise to National
Prominence



The Civil War:
The Nation Moves
Towards War, 1850-1861



Baseball: Across a
Divided Society



Constitution



Dust Bowl
Migrations



Hispanic Exploration in
America



Industrial
Revolution in the
United States



The New Deal

3. **Develop Guiding Questions**—Once you have found the “just right” primary sources for your lesson, develop guiding questions that require critical thinking and drive students to want to learn even more.

Our primary source analysis guides offer sample questions to engage student inquiry:

Observe—Examine closely to determine what information the source offers. What do you notice first? What do you notice that you cannot explain?

Reflect—Make inferences and draw conclusions using evidence. Where did this come from? Who was the audience? What's the author's point of view?

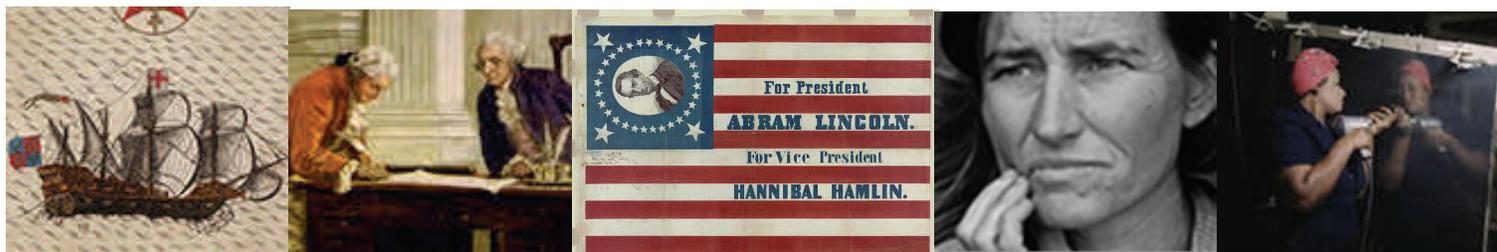
Question—Integrate and evaluate information, conduct further investigation through research.

What do you want to know about now? Where can you go for answers?

Download and access **primary source analysis guides** at:
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html>

Free to everyone, with no login required

www.loc.gov/teachers



What does the Library of Congress have for teachers?



More than 34 million digitized primary sources to reach all learners across the curriculum—maps, photos, films, manuscripts, and more.



At www.loc.gov/teachers you will find teaching materials including primary source sets, interactive activities, lesson plans, and analysis tools aligned to and made searchable by Common Core and your state standards.



We offer professional development online courses, summer institutes, and customized in-district training.



ALL FOR FREE!

Why Use Primary Sources?

Consider how primary sources can ignite and fuel these critical teaching and learning processes:

Engage Students—Primary sources make the past real to students, jumpstarting active learning.

Develop Critical Thinking Skills—Students use a variety of texts to make observations and inferences backed with evidence about vocabulary, point of view, cause and effect, and more.

Construct Knowledge—Students are driven by primary sources to wrestle with contradictions, ask questions, and develop research strategies to find answers, learning to a deeper understanding of history within and across subject areas.

With Primary Sources Students Can...

...interpret word choice in original manuscripts to assess meaning and tone.

...compare two photographs to determine how point of view shapes a message.

...use a map to develop an argument about the cause of a historical event.

...and more.

Primary Sources:

The raw materials of history - original documents and objects which were created at the time under study.

www.loc.gov/teachers