



Using Primary Sources

Resource List for Grades 5 through 8

The Resources in this document can be used with the Using Primary Sources Curriculum Packet for grades 5 through 8.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- 101 Changemakers: Rebels and Radicals Who Changed U.S. History, 2012 by Michele Bollinger (Editor), Dao X Tran (Editor).
This title offers a “peoples’ history” version of the individuals who have shaped our country for middle school students. In the place of founding fathers, presidents, and titans of industry, are profiles of those who courageously fought for social justice in America: Tecumseh, Harriet Tubman, Mark Twain, César Chávez, Rachel Carson, Harvey Milk, Henry Wallace, and many more.
- Auschwitz: Voices from the Death Camp (The Holocaust Through Primary Sources), 2011 by James M Deem (Author).
During the Holocaust, the Nazis murdered more than one million people at Auschwitz. The largest of all the Nazi camps, Auschwitz was both a death camp and a forced labor camp. Author James M. Deem examines this place of unspeakable horror from the perspective of those who experienced it, from the construction of the camp to its final days.
- Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States, 2004 by Patricia C & Fredrick L. McKissack (Author).
Explains how freedom did not arrive in one moment. Using many primary sources, the McKissacks chronicle the many days of jubilee, freedom, that African Americans experienced throughout American history.
- Native American Resistance (Primary Sources of Westward Expansion), 2017 by Zachary Deibel (Author).
Describes the United States government's efforts to remove Native Americans from their land and drive them west to allow white settlement, the breaking of treaties, and the ways in which Native Americans resisted being forced out.
- Primary Source Accounts of the Korean War (America's Wars Through Primary Sources), 2006 by John Richard Conway (Author).
Looks at the history of the Korean War through the letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, songs, speeches and literature from the time.
- Primary Source Accounts of the Vietnam War, 2006 by Kim A. O’Connell (Author).
Looks at the Vietnam War through the eyes of soldiers and others involved. The author uses letters, diaries, and other documents to give the reader a more personal view of this war.
- A Primary Source History of Westward Expansion, 2015 by Steven Otfinoski (Author).
Throughout the 1800s millions of people pushed into the western United States. They went for gold, opportunities, and a chance for a better life. But as settlers moved in, American Indians

were often pushed out. Hear the words they spoke. Read the words they read. And see the differing points of view about westward expansion through the eyes of the people who lived it.

- Primary Source Accounts of World War II (America's Wars Through Primary Sources), 2006, by John Richard Conway (Author).
Explores World War Two through the documents of the time, from diary entries and letters to song lyrics and speeches.
- Saving Children from the Holocaust: The Kindertransport (The Holocaust Through Primary Sources), 2011 by Ann Byers (Author).
Jews searched for a way out of Germany. But anti-Jewish laws and nations unwilling to accept fleeing refugees made escape difficult or impossible. England's effort to save the children effort came to be known as the Kindertransport, and author Ann Byers discusses the heroes who organized the transports and the children who were saved from the Holocaust.
- Settling and Unsettling the West - Social Studies Book for Kids, 2017 by Teacher Created Materials (Author).
Primary source documents provide an intimate glimpse into what life was like during the 1800s. This nonfiction reader can be purposefully differentiated for various reading levels and learning styles.
- A Young People's History of the United States: Columbus to the War on Terror (For Young People Series), 2009 by Howard Zinn (Author), Rebecca Stefoff (Contributor).
A Young People's History of the United States brings to US history the viewpoints of workers, slaves, immigrants, women, Native Americans, and others whose stories, and their impact, are rarely included in books for young people.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- Google News Archive
Searchable database of scanned newspapers. Dates of Coverage: 1700s-Present, depending on newspaper.
<https://news.google.com/newspapers>
- Junior Scholastic: Where Critical Thinking Meets Current Events
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/>
- Today's Document : Easy access to important historical documents; quick links to archives.org and additional information.
Download from your App store.

Online Links

- Children and Youth in History: a world history resource that provides teachers and students with access to sources about young people from the past to the present.
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/>
- Collections & Research Services: The Archive of Folk Culture
The Archive includes over three million photographs, manuscripts, audio recordings, and moving images. It consists of documentation of traditional culture from all around the world including the earliest field recordings made in the 1890s on wax cylinder through recordings made using digital technology.
<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/archive.html>
- Digital Public Library of America: Discover 29,975,726 images, texts, videos, and sounds from across the United States

<https://dp.la/>

- Digital Public Library of America: Primary Source Sets
<https://dp.la/primary-source-sets>
- Docs Teach, from the National Archives: This collection of over 3,000 primary documents is organized by historical era, from the nation's founding to the present. Documents, including maps, charts, graphs, audio, and video, have been selected by National Archives Staff, and are photographic reproductions of historical sources.
<https://www.docsteach.org/documents>
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History: Tons of images, audio, and video bring primary source documents and expert perspectives to the classroom.
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/>
- Library of Congress: Digital Collections. Primary source collections in all formats and covering hundreds of topics.
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/>
- Library of Congress Primary Sources by State
The extensive collections at the Library of Congress contain historic artifacts and cultural materials from across the U.S. Click on the map below to see select items from your state.
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/states/>
- Life Magazine Photo Archive: Google and Life Magazine have a wonderful search engine that lets users search millions of images from the Life Magazine Photo Archive. Not only can you type in key terms to guide your searches, you can also look through images organized by decade (1860s through 1970s) or significant people, places, events or sports topics.
<http://images.google.com/hosted/life>
- The Living New Deal | Still Working for America
Archival site is a treasure trove for New Deal researchers
<https://livingnewdeal.org/>
- NASA: Researching NASA History, collection of primary resource research materials for NASA
<https://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/refcoll.html>
- The National Archives: Researching Primary Sources
<https://www.archives.gov/education/research/primary-sources>
- Nat Geo Kids: Online library of Primary Resources
<https://www.natgeokids.com/za/teacher-category/primary-resources/>
- Oakland Museum of California: Dorothea Lange Photography Collection.
Supported by government programs and new picture magazines like LIFE, Dorothea Lange and other photographers of the 1930s and '40s created an indelible record of everyday life in difficult times.
<http://collections.museumca.org/?q=category/2011-schema/art/dorothea-lange>
- The Smithsonian Learning Lab: The Lab is a free, interactive platform for discovering millions of authentic digital resources, creating content with online tools, and sharing in the Smithsonian's expansive community of knowledge and learning.
<https://learninglab.si.edu/>
- Spartacus Educational: A great resource for global history. It contains free encyclopedia entries that directly connect to primary source documents, making it a perfect tool for research.
<https://spartacus-educational.com/>
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: for Students.
<https://www.ushmm.org/learn/students>

- Voices of Democracy: Vast collection of primary source documents make a solid starting point for research.
<http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/>
- The World Digital Library: Large, well-organized collection of print and visual primary sources from ancient to current times. Material may be browsed by place, time, topic, type of resource, or contributing institution.
<https://www.wdl.org/en/>

Background information for the Educator

- Examining the Evidence: Seven Strategies for Teaching with Primary Sources, 2014 by Hilary Mac Austin (Author), Kathleen Thompson (Author).
Primary sources are the very documents that history is made of, the images that science is based on, the raw material of our lives. They are also excellent tools to teach the critical thinking skills required by the Common Core State Standards. This book reveals in detail the strategies you can use to make primary sources come alive for your students and to enhance visual literacy, using fascinating photographs and powerful primary source texts.
- Library of Congress: Using Primary Sources
Primary sources are the raw materials of history, original documents and objects which were created at the time under study. They are different from secondary sources, accounts or interpretations of events created by someone without firsthand experience.
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/>
- National Geographic Education: Bring National Geographic Resources Into Your Classroom
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/>
- The Teaching with Primary Sources Journal
Strategies and resources for K-12 classrooms from the Library of Congress
<https://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/journal/>
- Uncovering Our History: Teaching with Primary Sources, 2003 by Susan H. Veccia (Author).
In this useful handbook, the author offers readers practical ways to incorporate primary sources into curriculum, using the resources of the Library of Congress's American Memory Website. This national treasure and resource for bringing history alive is home to over 100 digitized collections of primary sources, more than 7.5 million documents! While the wealth of information on this site is freely available, its magnitude can seem overwhelming. This hands-on insider's guide helps navigate the information and learn when, where, and how to incorporate these online primary documents into the curriculum.