



Using Primary Sources

Resource List for Grades 9 through 12

The Resources in this document can be used with the Using Primary Sources Curriculum Packet for grades 9 through 12.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 (Newbery Honor Book), 2003 by Jim Murphy (Author).
Uses primary sources to relate the events of 1793 in Philadelphia including the heroic behavior of many, especially the Free African Society. Includes then-current beliefs about Yellow Fever, and the path to cure it 100 years later.
- Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West, 2007 by Dee Brown (Author), Hampton Sides (Foreword).
Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, the author allows great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell us in their own words of the series of battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them and their people demoralized and decimated.
- 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.
- First Freedoms: A Documentary History of First Amendment Rights in America, 2006 by Charles C. Haynes (Author), Sam Chaltain (Author), Susan M. Glisson (Author).
A rich and engaging exploration of the documents that illustrate the origins and development of First Amendment freedoms in American history. Each document is introduced by a historical essay and reproduced in facsimile. Incorporating nearly 40 documents and spanning more than 300 years,
- Girls: A History of Growing Up Female in America, 2000 by Penny Colman (Author).
Traces the history of growing up female in America as told by the girls themselves in journals, household manuals, letters, slave narratives, and other primary sources.
- Hidden Teens, Hidden Lives: Primary Sources from the Holocaust (True Stories of Teens in the Holocaust), 2010 by Linda Jacobs Altman (Author).
Explains how and where possible victims of the Holocaust hid or how they assumed false identities in order to survive. The author uses primary sources to detail the stories of many Jews who went into hiding to survive the Nazi's planned extermination of Europe's Jews.
- Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow, 2005 by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Author).
By the time Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, 3.5 million children belonged to the Hitler Youth. This book uses primary sources to examine the Hitler Youth group.

- Marching to the Mountaintop : How Poverty , Labor Fights and Civil Rights Set the Stage for Martin Luther King Jr's Final Hours, 2012 by Ann Bausum (Author).
Explores how the media, politics, the civil rights movement, and labor protests all converged to set the scene for one of Dr. King's greatest speeches and for his tragic death on April 4, 1968, in Memphis.
- Oregon Trail Journal of Medorem Crawford (Expanded, Annotated), 2016 by Medorem Crawford (Author).
Known to everyone in early Oregon Territory, Medorem Crawford was one of its most prominent pioneers. This journal is the only record of one of the earliest large emigrations on the Oregon Trail, kept by Crawford on that journey in 1842. With its peculiar and inconsistent misspellings kept intact, it's a fascinating read for its form as well as its story.
- A Primary Source History of Slavery in the United States, 2015 by Allison Crotzer Kimmel (Author).
For more than 100 years, slavery was a way of life in the United States. Many people believed slavery was necessary and right. Many others fought tirelessly to end it. Hear the words they spoke. Read the words they read. And see the differing points of view about slavery through the eyes of the people who lived it.
- 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.
- 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.
- Reconstruction: A Primary Source History of the Struggle to Unite the North and South After the Civil War (Primary Sources in American History), 2005 by Timothy Flanagan (Author), Jason Porter (Author).
Uses primary source documents, narrative, and illustrations to recount the history of the Reconstruction, as the United States government and people worked to recover from the effects of the Civil War.
- With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote, 2004 by Ann Bausum (Author).
A chronicle of the story of the women's suffrage movement in America, using compelling period photographs to illustrate the history of women who fought hard for women's right to vote, with primary sources.
- 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

- Chronicling America
Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1963 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present.
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>
- Google News Archive
Searchable database of scanned newspapers. Dates of Coverage: 1700s-Present, depending on newspaper.
<https://news.google.com/newspapers>
- Today's Document : Easy access to important historical documents; quick links to archives.org and additional information.
Download from your App store.

Online Links

- 100 Milestone Documents, from Our Documents at the National Archives: This collection of 100 milestone documents has been compiled by the National Archives and chronicles the history of the U.S. from 1776 to 1965. Sources include public laws, Supreme Court decisions, inaugural speeches, treaties, constitutional amendments, and other documents that have influenced the course of U.S. history. Both original and transcribed copies are available.
<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/content.php?flash=true&page=milestone>
- The Avalon Project, from the Yale Law School: This collection, which can be viewed chronologically from the fifteenth century to the twenty-first, includes documents selected for their importance in American legal history. Sources can also be searched by themed "Document Collections".
<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/>
- 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>
- Engaging Congress: a fun, interactive game that uses primary source documents to explore the basic tenets of representative government and the challenges they face in contemporary society.
<https://engagingcongress.org/>

- 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.