

Using Primary Sources

Resource List for Grades K through 4

The Resources in this document can be used with the Using Primary Sources Curriculum Packet for grades K through 4.

Books

Series to Consider for Primary Source research with elementary students

- For Kids Series by the Chicago Review Press
https://www.chicagoreviewpress.com/titles-pages-30.php#by_Series_for-kids-series
- Primary Source Readers by Teacher Created Material
<https://www.teachercreatedmaterials.com/administrators/social-studies-overview/>
- Uncovering the Past: Analyzing Primary Sources Series published by Crabtree Press
<http://www.crabtreebooks.com/products/by-subject/history-titles/uncovering-the-past>

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- DOGO News: Kid-friendly articles are relevant, accessible, and engaging.
<https://www.dogonews.com/>
- Google News Archive
Searchable database of scanned newspapers. Dates of Coverage: 1700s-Present, depending on newspaper.
<https://news.google.com/newspapers>
- Scholastic News: Current events
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/>

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.