

## What are Primary Sources?

Primary sources are first-hand documents and objects that were created at the time the events occurred. There are many forms of primary sources. The following are examples.

diaries letters reports

photographs memos

newspaper articles maps

broadcasts sheet music

advertisements magazines

art e-mail interviews

news film official records

speeches



## Why Use Primary Sources?

According to the Library of Congress, primary sources **engage students** by making the past real to them, **develop critical thinking skills** as students use a variety of texts to make observations and inferences, and **construct knowledge** when students grapple with contradictions, ask questions, and develop research strategies.



## How Can Students Use Primary Sources?

Listen to an audio recording of a speech, old radio broadcast or music to hear ideas or identify differences in speech or sound.

Study historical maps to compare and contrast.

Examine copies of documents and pictures to understand people, places, and events from the past.

And more.....

## Planning Lessons with Primary Sources

Consider objectives and goals for content lesson.

Determine assessment evidence. Rubrics or other assessment information needs to be included.

List materials and resources. Include any handouts, overhead transparencies/Power Point slides, and other relevant visuals and materials in this section.

Create introductory activities. (This may be a good place for the primary source to capture student interest.)

Outline the content, instructional strategies and learning activities. (The primary source may be the basis of the day's lesson.)

List activities that will conclude the lesson.

Include accommodations or enrichment as needed.



### Where Are Primary Sources Located?

The Library of Congress provides numerous primary sources in its digital collections to enhance content in grades K-12. The table below has links to the Library of Congress resources for teachers.

<p><b>Using Primary Resource</b> <a href="http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/">www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/</a> Citing Primary Sources Copyright and Fair Use Teacher's Guides/Analysis Tool</p>
<p><b>Finding Primary Sources</b> <a href="http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/finding">www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/finding</a> Primary Source Sets Primary Sources by State Themed Resources</p>
<p><b>Classroom Materials</b> <a href="http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/">www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/</a> Lesson Plans Presentations/Activities Themed Resources Collection Connections</p>

### Search by Standards

- Common Core Standards
- State Content Standards
- Library/Technology Standards

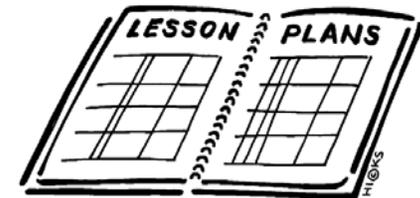
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<http://loc.gov/teachers/>

# Lesson Planning

## Using Primary Sources From the Library of Congress



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