



## TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES

Home » Tools for Educators



## Tools for Educators

### Contents:

#### New tools

[How to use the Library of Congress Web site](#)

[Themed guides to helpful links at the Library of Congress Web site](#)

[Ready-to-print analysis worksheets and graphic organizers](#)

### New tools!

- [Writing from Documents worksheet](#)
  - Analyze text-based primary sources along with other formats of sources to answer investigative questions
- Resource Guides for [Kindergarten](#), [First](#), [Second](#), and [Third](#) grades
  - Multi-page resources guides aligned with the new Social Studies state standards

### How to use the Library of Congress Web site:

- [Introductory Links on the Library of Congress Web site](#)
  - This PDF includes good places to start and information on the Teachers Page.
- [Introductory Guide to Prints and Photographs](#)
  - This PDF offers strategies and quick instructions for searching the online catalog of the Library's Prints and Photographs Reading Room. The online catalog just got a complete face-lift to make it easier to use and easier to view. A great improvement!
- [Introductory Guide to American Memory](#)
  - This PDF offers strategies and quick instructions for searching this popular database of primary sources.
- [Key Things to Consider When Selecting Primary Sources for the Classroom](#)
  - This 1-page PDF lists 7 main things to keep in mind when trying to decide what primary sources to use with students. Helpful examples and links are included.
- [How to Find the Permanent URL in American Memory](#)
  - Unlike in the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog, the permanent URL for a primary source is a bit more difficult to find in American Memory. This 4-page PDF guides shows you how to find it, in 5 easy steps.
- [How to Save & Print Primary Sources from the Library of Congress Web site](#)
  - This 2-page PDF offers a quick and easy introduction to saving and printing different kinds of primary sources. Great as a "next step" after using one of the search guides below.

### Themed guides to helpful links at the Library of Congress Web site:

- [African American History Links](#)

- This 3-page PDF provides links to a wide variety of collections, exhibitions, and teacher resources related to African American history on the Library of Congress Web site, as well as additional resources available on the TPS-TN Web site.
- Baseball Sources at the Library of Congress
  - This PDF serves as a quick guide to some of the best places to find baseball primary sources and other related materials on the Library of Congress Web site.
- Celebrating Abraham Lincoln Online with Library of Congress Primary Sources
  - This PDF provides important links and search terms for researching Abraham Lincoln.
- Civil War & Reconstruction Links—newly updated!
  - Top Ten: 1-page tool with ten of the most popular links for educators
  - Comprehensive: 5 pages of links to Library of Congress educator materials, digital collections, exhibitions, and more related to the topic of the Civil War
- Cold War Links Guide
  - This 2-page guide highlights the best collections, exhibits, and special features to support your teaching of the Cold War.
- Coming of the American Revolution Links
  - This 2-page PDF organizes Library of Congress links that will take you to primary sources on the topic of the years leading up to the American Revolution. Links come from Today in History, America's Story, the Teachers Page, exhibitions, and digital collections.
- Founding Documents Primary Source Set & Links Guide
  - This 6-page primary source set also serves as a links guide to the main founding documents in American history and government.
- New Deal Links
  - This 2-page PDF provides links to some of the best and most teacher-friendly resources related to the Great Depression and New Deal on the Library of Congress Web site, as well as the TPS-TN Web site. Included are links to primary source collections, lesson plans & activities, primary source sets, bibliographies, and other teacher materials.
- Progressive Era Links Guide
  - This 2-page PDF highlights collections and teacher resources related to this era in United States history from the Library of Congress and educator resources from TPS-TN.
- Resource Guides for Grade Levels
  - Multi-page resources guides aligned with the new Social Studies state standards
    - Kindergarten
    - First Grade
    - Second Grade
    - Third Grade
- War of 1812 Links
  - This 2-page PDF directs you to digital collections, exhibitions, and other features of the Library's Web site that involve primary sources about the War of 1812. Annotated to give you an idea of which links best suit your needs.
- Women's Suffrage Links Guide
  - This 4-page guide highlights the best primary sources, teaching materials, and historical background on the topic of Women's Suffrage in America.
- World History Links Guide
  - This 3-page PDF highlights collections and teacher resources for world history, culture, and geography topics from the Library of Congress and TPS-TN.
- World War I Links
  - This 2-page PDF highlights collections and teacher resources for World War I topics from the Library of Congress and TPS-TN.

---

### Ready-to-print analysis worksheets and graphic organizers:

For **TEACHERS**: These forms provide prompt questions that can be used in conjunction with the Analysis Tool for Students from the Library of Congress Web site.

- [Analyzing Primary Sources](#) (for all kinds of primary sources)
- [Books and other printed texts](#)
- [Manuscripts](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Motion pictures](#)
- [Photographs and prints](#)
- [Music and song sheets](#)
- [Sound recordings](#)

### Analysis worksheets that you can print and hand out to students:

- Primary Source Analysis Tool, a.k.a. Analysis Tool for Students (for all kinds of primary sources)
  - [Interactive, Web-based format](#)
  - [Writable, printable PDF format](#)
- [Primary Source Investigation](#) (similar to Primary Source Analysis Tool)
- [Documents](#)
- [Songs](#)
- [Poetry](#)
- [Image Analysis Form](#) (good for photographs, illustrations, and political cartoons; adapted from Primary Source Analysis Tool)

### Activities for primary source analysis:

- [Common Core State Standards \(CCSS\) Skill Cards](#)
  - This PDF consists of 15 "cards" (1 page each), each with a different Common Core skill, such as summary, author's purpose, evidence, etc. Use with your students to do a close reading and analysis of text-based primary sources. (Many cards work for images, too.)
  - [Suggested primary sources to accompany Skill Cards](#)
- Primary Source Activity
  - These four sets of images help to distinguish between primary and secondary sources. A worksheet introduces each set and organizes your responses.
    - [Set 1](#)
    - [Set 2](#)
    - [Set 3](#)
    - [Set 4](#)
- [25 Questions to Ask Your Primary Source](#)
  - Before you begin to examine primary sources, learn some essential questions that you must ask about any item you find in an historical archive.

### Graphic organizers

- [Graphic organizer worksheets](#), created by Teaching with Primary Sources consortium member Barbara Stripling, are great for helping students think more deeply about primary sources. Just print, copy, and hand out!
  - Main ideas and supporting evidence
  - Multiple perspectives: point/counterpoint
  - Connecting ideas across texts
  - Causes and effects
- [Analyzing Multiple Perspectives worksheet](#)
  - Compare and contrast the perspectives of two primary sources, using the skills of both differing perspectives and multiple texts.
- [Venn Diagram worksheet](#)
  - Analyze three primary sources at once to see where they connect and where they differ.
- [Writing from Documents worksheet](#)
  - Analyze text-based primary sources along with other formats of sources to answer investigative questions

