Analyzing Primary Source Documents: It’s Elementary Dear Watson

NNCSS Conference
Marcia Motter
Analyze this primary source document
By The End of the Session Today…

- The mystery will be taken out of how to analyze primary source documents.
- You will learn a variety of teaching strategies that can be used to teach primary sources to your students.
- You will learn how to use primary source documents in daily lessons.
Read texts by using reading strategies (prior knowledge, key vocabulary words, context clues, main ideas, supporting details, and text features: pictures, maps, text boxes).

Read to identify cause and effect relationships, compare and contrast information, fact v. opinion, and author bias.

Evaluate the accuracy, relevancy, appropriateness, and bias of online and print sources.
National Common Core Standards

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author’s point of view or purpose.
- Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
- Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.
- Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.
A simple photo can lead to a good discussion

This is my great, great grandfather
What is a Primary Source

A primary source is any document that provides a firsthand account or is a witness of a given event.

Letter, speech, photograph, political cartoon, artifacts, sound recording, map, painting, or poem.
TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London No. 5747.

Mar. 20, 1939

“We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, demand Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President’s attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace.”

Signed, [Signature].
What is a Secondary Source

A secondary source is a source that analyzes or interprets a primary source.

- Map, painting, textbook, newspaper article, song, film, or teacher
APARTY

Author
Place & Time
Audience
Reason
The Main Idea
Yeah: So What?
TACOS

- Time
- Action
- Caption
- Objects
- Summary
Think of a unit that you have coming up.

How can you use primary and secondary sources in your unit?
Websites

- http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com
- http://www.authentichistory.com
- http://sheg.stanford.edu
- http://docsteach.org/
- http://www.loc.gov
- http://www.archives.gov
- http://intimeandplace.org
## Drop Box Files

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