Analyzing Primary Sources Using KnowItAll and the Library of Congress Primary Source Analysis Tool
Why Analyze Primary Sources?

- Allows students to think like a historian
- Develop critical thinking skills
- 2019 SC Social Studies Standards
  - Evidence Skill
    - “Identify, source, and utilize different forms of evidence, including primary and secondary sources, used in an inquiry based study of history”
Knowitall

Great SC Resources
Search by Standards
Tons of Useful Series and Collections
Over 8,500 Media Assets Created by ETV

Extend the Learning - All Through the

www.knowitall.org
History of SC Slide Collection

Primary Sources

Divided by Topics

Images of SC History

www.knowitall.org/series/history-south-carolina-slide-collection
Library of Congress

World’s Largest Library

Enormous Digital Collection and Services

Educational Resources for Teachers

www.loc.gov/
Primary Source Analysis Tool

Graphic Organizer
Encourages Critical Thinking
Suited for any type of primary source

TEACHER'S GUIDE
Analyzing Primary Sources

OBSERVE
Ask students to identify and note details.
Sample Questions:
- What do you notice first?
- Find something small but interesting.
- What do you notice that you didn’t expect?
- What do you notice that you can’t explain?
- What do you notice that you didn’t earlier?

REFLECT
Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.
Where do you think this came from?
- Why do you think somebody made this?
- What do you think was happening when this was made?
- Who do you think was the audience for this item?
- What tool was used to create this?
- Why do you think this item is so important?
- If somebody made this today, what would be different?
- What can you learn from examining this?

QUESTION
Invite students to ask questions that lead to more observations and reflections.
What do you wonder about...
- who?
- what?
- when?
- where?
- why?
- how?

FURTHER INVESTIGATION
Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.

A few follow-up activity ideas:
Beginning
Have students compare two related primary source items.
Intermediate
Have students expand or alter textbook explanations of history based on primary sources they study.
Advanced
Ask students to consider how a series of primary sources support or challenge information and understanding on a particular topic. Have students refine or restate conclusions based on their study of each subsequent primary source.

www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/resources/Analyzing_Primary_Sources.pdf
Analyzing Photographs and Prints Tool

TEACHER’S GUIDE
Analyzing Photographs & Prints

OBSERVE
Ask students to identify and note details.
- What do you notice first?
- What objects and people are shown?
- How are they arranged?
- What is the physical setting?
- What words do you see?
- What other details can you see?

REFLECT
Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.
- Why do you think this image was made?
- What’s happening in the image?
- When do you think it was made?
- Who do you think was the audience for this image?
- What tools were used to create this?
- What can you learn from examining this image?
- If someone made this today, what would be different?
- What would be the same?

QUESTION
Invite students to ask questions that lead to more observations and reflections.
- What do you wonder about...

FURTHER INVESTIGATION
Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.
- A few follow-up activity ideas:
  - Beginning: Write a caption for the image.
  - Intermediate: Select an image. Predict what will happen one minute after the scene shown in the image. One hour after? Explain the reasoning behind your predictions.
  - Advanced: Have students expand or alter textbook or other printed explanations of history based on images they study.

www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/resources/Analyzing_Photographs_and_Prints.pdf
How to Use the Primary Source Tool

Choose an image from KnowItAll

Select “Photographs and Prints” as source

Complete the graphic organizer

Students use the “?” icon for prompts

Email responses to teacher

www.loc.gov/teachers/primary-source-analysis-tool/
SOUTH CAROLINA’S PUBLIC BROADCASTING STATION

SCETV.ORG

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