

Reading Primary Source Images Like a Book

Teaching Visual Literacy for the 21st Century

Reading Primary Source Images

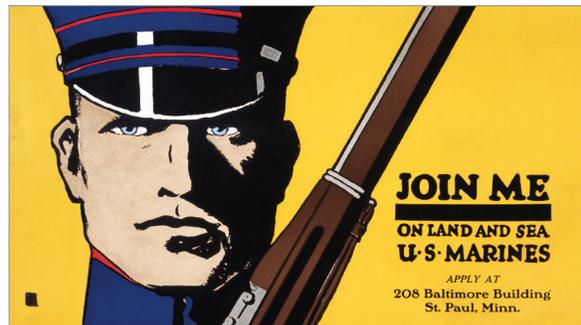
We live in an increasingly visual world. Students are bombarded with strong visual images all day, in school and out of school. Learning how to read historic images empowers students to learn essential critical thinking skills that can be used on any image, document or other primary source, whether it's historic or contemporary.

Advantages of Images

- Images include photographs, artwork, posters, cartoons and more
- Good for visual learners
- Helpful for young students, ELL students, struggling readers
- Excellent companion to text
- Teach critical consumer skills
- Students live in a world where information is largely visual

What do Images Do?

- They tell stories
- They engage students
- They elicit an emotional reaction in students
- They make the past real
- They challenge students



Source: Minnesota Historical Society, E435.21 a4



Shana Crosson

Minnesota Historical Society

Poster Resources



Source: Minnesota Historical Society, GT3.1 r214

Why Use Primary Sources?

Engagement: students connect to the “stuff” of history
Standards: Common Core standards require primary sources

Common Core Standards

Common Core ELA Standards require the analysis of primary sources.
For example:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2

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.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.9

Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9

Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.



Source: Minnesota Historical Society, J7.5 p5

Analyzing Primary Sources

Steps to Analyzing Images

- **Describe** the image so others can visualize it
- What **information** is given to you in the image?
- What **existing knowledge** do you have about the image?
- What **questions** do you have about the image?
- What **conclusions** can you come to about the image?

SOAP

- Source
- Occasion
- Audience
- Purpose

SOAP is a technique from the History Tech blog



Source: Minnesota Historical Society, E440 p11

Activities

- Thought bubbles
- Start each class period with an image or use as exit tickets
- Post iconic images around the room.
- Compare different photos of the same event.
- Students write captions or create exhibits
- Gallery Walk
- Create a "Pinterest" board

Writing Prompts

- How does this image make you feel?
- Write about what one of the people in the photo might be thinking. Create their story based on what you know and can surmise from the photo.
- How does this image connect to what we're learning?
- What do you think happened just before/ after this photo was taken?
- Why was this image created?

Digital Primary Sources

Tech Tools

Digital tools empower students to creatively demonstrate their analysis. There are many free online tools to use.

- Thinglink



- Hstry



- ArcGIS StoryMaps

- Pinterest

- Animoto



- Digital Storytelling tools



Resources

You can find digital primary sources images from many reliable organizations. Here are some to get started.

- Library of Congress
- Digital Public Library (DPLA)
- Smithsonian's Learning Lab
- Stanford's History Education Group (SHEG)
- Local historical organizations
- Remembering Lincoln
- ZoomIn

Digital Primary Sources



<http://bit.ly/digitalsources>