

Ancient Egypt - Introducing Primary Sources through Photographs

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Social Studies
Grades 6–8



Introduction

This is a lesson that introduces the use of primary sources in studying Ancient Egypt. This engaging lesson provides lots of visual examples of primary sources in previously studied aspects of Ancient Egypt.

Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1](#); Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources

Materials Needed

- Access to the websites and articles listed below
- Photographs of historical events that students are familiar with
- Copies of exit ticket for each student

Procedure

Hook – Show students pictures of historical events that students have studied previously. These should be events that students know and can very easily identify. Discuss how the photographs give us a first-hand evidence of what was going on in that time.

1. Introduce the term “primary source” by displaying and discussing the definition found at [this website](#). Emphasize that a primary source can be an original document, a narrative, a letter, art, or photos.
2. Then go to [this website](#) to listen to the article about Giza. Show the photos that are examples of primary sources. Discuss the photos and what they reveal about the Ancient Egyptians.
3. Next, put students in pairs and give them a copy of the article (or a portion of) that includes the photographs [found here](#).
4. Have students read the article and discuss the photos.
5. The teacher will then lead a discussion about what the photos reveal about Ancient Egyptian culture, work ethic, ingenuity, etc.

Continued on page 2



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Continued from page 1

Evaluation

As a formative assessment, have each student complete the following exit ticket.

- What is a primary source?
- Give one example of a primary source that you saw today.
- What did it tell you about the Ancient Egyptians?