Digital Primary Sources for Teaching and Research

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Primary Sources

Sources of information created or experienced concurrently with the event being researched.

Humanities

Sciences

Social Sciences
Teaching with Primary Sources

1. Where do students get most of their exposure to primary sources?
2. Are there other, better ways?
3. How can JFL help you find and use primary sources effectively in your classroom?
Suggestions for Using Primary Sources in the Classroom

1. Start with an exploration of the primary source(s).
   - The National Archives suggests this method of investigation:
     • Meet the document.
     • Observe its parts.
     • Try to make sense of it.
     • Use it as historical evidence.
     • https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets

2. Use primary sources that present different aspects of the time/person/event. Have students compare and contrast, make inferences and assumptions, and understand the value and limitations of perspective.

3. Try role playing games/scenarios using primary sources as evidence and framework.
Reacting to the Past

an active learning pedagogy of role-playing games designed for higher education

https://reacting.barnard.edu/#WhatIs

The Constitutional Convention of 1787: Constructing the American Republic

By John Patrick Coby

Your classroom takes on the debates that most profoundly shaped American government, investigating ideological arguments behind possible structures for a new government, and creating a new constitution.

https://reacting.barnard.edu/games
Primary Source Databases in the Jerry Falwell Library
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Specific</th>
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| **World Scholar: Latin America and the Caribbean**  
Primary source documents, academic journals, news feeds, reference articles and commentary, maps, statistics, and audio and video about Latin America and the Caribbean. | **ProQuest Civil War Era**  
Primary source materials, including regional newspapers, pamphlets, and other documents, covering Manifest Destiny through the end of the Civil War and a vast range of topics. |
| **Issues & Controversies in American History (Facts on File)**  
Articles, primary source documents, biographies, timelines, images, and statistics providing background, outcomes, and contemporary points of view for major topics in American history. | **AM Explorer**  
Full-text, primary sources spanning social sciences and humanities from the 15th to the 21st centuries, including handwritten text recognition, data visualization, and video and oral histories. |