

Photography as a Primary Source Interactive Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

1. What is a primary source?

A document, account, or object created during a historic event, which is then used to study that event or time period.

2. Look at the first photograph from the Civil War.

This the Grand Review, held in Washington, DC at the end of the war, May 1865. It is a parade to show off and celebrate the success of the Union Army.

- a. What do you notice first about this picture? What stands out?
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- b. Where do you think this photograph was taken? How can you tell?
Answers may include: in the city, or town; in the south or north; Washington, DC. The capital is visible in the background. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- c. Do you think this was early in the war or closer to the end? Why do you think that?
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- d. Why do you think men on horses are going down the street?

They are going off to war, they are having a parade, they are coming home from war. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- e. Why do you think people are out on the street watching this?
They are watching the parade. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- f. Do you think this is a sad or happy occasion? Explain your answer.

Happy or Sad, they just have to provide a justification for their answer.

- g. List one or two things that this picture tells you about the war.

Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- 3. Look at the next picture

This is a picture of the Confederate Army under General Hood during the Battle of Nashville, Dec. 1864. This is the Confederate Army's outside line, which also includes their camp.

- a. What do you notice first about this picture? What stands out?
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- b. What time of the year do you think it is? How can you tell?
Summer, winter, spring or fall, all are fine as long as they can provide their reasoning.

- c. Where do you think this photograph was taken?
North, South, in a camp, in a field, Nashville. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- d. Which army do you think this is? The Union or the Confederate, explain your answer.
Union or Confederate is fine, as long as they explain their answer.

- e. Look closely, what are some tasks the men are doing in this picture?
Cooking, eating, talking, accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- f. Do you think this looks like a good or bad place to live? Why?
They can answer good or bad, but they need to explain why.

- g. List one or two things that this picture tells you about the war.
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

4. Look at the next picture

This is a picture of the Union Army entrenched or building entrenchments near North Anna, Virginia. Part of General Grant's Wilderness campaign. May-June 1864

- a. What do you notice first about this picture? What stands out?
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- b. What time of the year do you think is it? How can you tell?
Summer, Spring, or Fall, as long as they provide an explanation as to why they came to that conclusion.

- c. Do you think these men are from the Union or from the Confederacy? How can you tell?
Union or Confederate, as long as they provide a reasonable argument as to their answer.

- d. What have the men done to the ground?
Dug, made a pit, built trenches. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- e. Do you think is a place where the soldiers will live like a camp or do you think this is set up for some other reason? Explain your answer.
They could answer that it is a camp or that they dug into the ground to protect themselves in the future. Either is acceptable with the appropriate argument to support their answer.

- f. List one or two things that this picture tells you about the war.
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

5. Look at the next picture

This is a picture from Antietam in the fall of 1862. General McClellan and George Custer both appear with President Lincoln in this photograph.

- a. What do you notice first about this picture? What stands out?
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

- b. Do you think these soldiers are Union or Confederate? What clues help you answer that question?
Union or Confederate, with reasoning as to why they believe it is one or the other.

- c. Where do you think is photograph was taken?
At camp, in the field, in the country, Antietam. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.
- d. What time of the year is it? How can you tell?
Spring, summer, or fall. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.
- e. Look closely at the men in the picture. Do you think the soldiers are important? Why or why not?
Yes, or no. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.
- f. What do you think was happening the day this picture was taken? Explain your thoughts.
President Lincoln came to meet with his officers, Lincoln came to meet the soldiers, Lincoln and his men were planning, Lincoln came to pay his respect for the dead. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.
- g. List one or two things that this picture tells you about the war.
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

Assessment

6. Look at the picture

This is a picture of Richmond after it has fallen. Believed to be taken somewhere in the time period of April-June, 1865.

- a. What do you notice first about this picture? What stands out?
Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.
- b. Where do you think this is? How can you tell?

Richmond, a city, the south, the north. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

c. What do you think happened before this picture was taken?

There was a battle, the north invaded, the south invaded, there were bombs. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

d. Do you think this is near the beginning or the end of the war?

The beginning or end. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

e. Where do you think the people are who lived in this place?

They evacuated, they left, they died, they ran away, they hid. Accept any appropriate, reasonably justified answer.

f. List two things that this picture tells you about the war.

1. Accept any appropriate answer.

2. Accept any appropriate answer.