

A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words

Analyzing Historical Photographs as Primary Sources

DIRECTIONS: Photos can give us amazing details about events in the past. When using a photo as a primary source, make sure you look closely at all of the details. **NOTE:** You may not be able to answer every question for each photograph.

Photo Number: _____

1. What is the first thing that catches your eye?

2. Make a list of any people in the photograph.

3. Make a list of any activities you see going on in the photograph.

4. What kind of clothing is being worn?

5. Is there any lettering on signs or buildings?

6. Where was the photograph taken? Cite your evidence.

7. If people are in the photograph, what do you think is their relationship to one another?

8. What can we learn from the picture?

9. Write your own caption for the photograph drawing upon all that you have observed.

Adapted from the Smithsonian Institute Publication: "Engaging Students with Primary Sources."
<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/professional/PrimarySources.pdf>