



Primary Source Analysis Worksheet

Primary sources are materials, such as documents or photographs, that are created at the time an event took place or later recall that event through an eye-witness account. These are powerful, original sources of information that help us to better understand the past. Secondary sources helped us to understand the past through the interpretation provided by the author or creator of the source, but primary sources lack this interpretation. This worksheet will guide you through the process of interpreting a primary source by observing it, understanding its importance, and then connecting it to history.

Observe It!

Carefully describe the source you are analyzing. Describe what type of source it is (e.g. newspaper, letter, etc.), who created it, who the intended audience was, where was it created, and when it was created.

Understand It!

Summarize what this source is examining or discussing. Why did the author create this item?

Connect It!

What did you learn examining this item that you cannot learn from another source? Quote or describe a piece of evidence from this source that connects it to the history of pandemic. Explain how it connects to history.

Dig Deeper!

The process of examining any primary source involves asking questions. What is one question that this item leaves unanswered that you could explore further in other primary or secondary sources.