

Primary Source Analysis Worksheet

This worksheet may be used to any type of resource and to understand its meaning. Every resource is unique. Fill out the sections relevant to the item you are analyzing.

Observing – What can you learn from observing the item?

1. First impression: What catches your attention when you first look at the item?

2. What is the item? _____

3. Who created it? _____

4. Is there writing on it? What language is it written in? _____

5. When was it created? _____

6. Where was it created? _____

Understanding – Using prior knowledge and analytical skills, reference books and online research to understand the context and meaning of the item.

1. What is the purpose of the item?

2. How is the item used?

3. What can be learned from the item about when and where it was created?

4. What additional information would you like to know about the item?

5. Where might you find additional information about the item?

Connecting – What does the item mean to you? What are your impressions of the item?
How does this item connect to your own life and experiences?

1. What are your thoughts about the item? What does it remind you of?

2. Ask a family member about the item. What can they add to your knowledge about the item or when and where it was created.

Creating – How does the item inspire you? Use what you have learned to create something new.

Choose from the suggestions below:

- Update the item for use today.
- Create your own version of the item.
- Research the city or country where the item came from. How does the item fit into its history? Make a presentation about the place. Use a suitable format from Canva or Google Slides to present your research.
- Creative writing: Write a story or poem about the item. Write a story based on the item. Write a story in which the item is used or plays a prominent role.
- Create an artistic work inspired by the item.