

UNIT: Primary Source Lessons

LESSON: Family History

GRADE(S): 4th grade and up

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Strand 1: American Heritage

1. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to think about the relationship among events by:
 - Identifying sequence of events in history
 - Grouping events by broad historical era on a time line;
 - Recognizing that change occurs in history;
or
 - Identifying cause and effect relationships
2. Identify and use sources of information about a given topic in the history of Ohio and the United States.
3. Relate major events and individuals in state history to time periods in the history of the nation and the world.

SPECIFIC STUDENT OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be identifying primary source items in the study of history of their families.
2. Students will be able to relate the importance of primary source materials in understanding history and events of the past.

STUDENT GROUPING:

1. Individual

METHODS:

1. Investigative Study

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ACTIVITY: Gathering Information

Opening:

1. Family collections, scrapbooks, videotapes, and photo albums are ways to remember important events in the past. These items are much the same types of items that are examined by historians to learn about the past.

Main Activity:

1. Students will complete worksheets on the use of primary documents.
2. Students will collect and duplicate 10 items telling the history of their families.
3. Collections of these duplicates of primary source items will be arranged in collection boxes or on posters to give a history of the student's family. A copy of the family history will accompany the collection.
4. Students will examine another student's collection to see if s/he is able to uncover the history of the family contained in their collection.

Questions to Ask:

1. In what type of sources can you find information about the events of the past?
2. Where can you find primary documents of the past?

Closing:

1. Primary documents provide great details for history for the person studying the past. Primary source materials talk to us about events and people of the past as if we were there.

MATERIALS:

1. Worksheet "Terms of History."

EVALUATION:

1. Completion of worksheet.

NOTES:

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ACTIVITY: What is Your Family's Past?

Discovering the history of your family or community can be fun and interesting. Asking family members about past events provides one method to find out about the past. In the study of history this method is called **oral history** or story-telling. People telling stories about past events and what they remember about those events is exciting. If no one is available to tell you the past, it is necessary to find other sources. One other way to find out about the past is to read letters, diaries, official documents and other such items. They were written at the time of the event and are called primary documents.

Primary documents are the study of your family include letters, diaries, journals, news articles, awards and badges, official documents, and collectable items that people have kept to remember events of the past. What can you discover by looking at these items?

Bibles	births, marriages, and deaths
Letters	stories and events
Badges and Awards	accomplishment and successes
News Articles	stories about events
Journals and Diaries	stories about events and people

You will be making a history of your family by looking at these types of primary sources.

1. Find 10 items in your family collections that tell things about your family. Make copies of those items for your collection.
2. Arrange those items in a collection box (shoe box will work well) or make a poster.
3. Write a short story about the items in your box.

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WORKSHEET: Primary Sources

Primary means first. Primary sources are first hand sources. That means sources that were from a particular time in history. For example the notes taken by James Madison are the only real insight into what was decided by the founding fathers when the Constitution was written. Your birth certificate is an example of a primary source of your own personal history. Some important sources are:

- Journals
- Diaries
- Official Documents
- Photographs
- Government Statistics
- Letters
- Original Maps
- Objects of Historical Use (such as tools)

Beside each item write the information you might be able to find out about a historical figure or event by examining a particular item.

Photographs _____

Letters _____

Tools or Furniture _____

Diaries or Journals _____

Official Documents:

Marriage Licenses _____

Birth Certificates _____

Deeds _____

Clothing _____