

Using Primary Source Documents in the Classroom

Tara Sides
L. E. Gables Middle School
sidesTM@spartanburg6.k12.sc.us

What is a primary source document?

A primary source document was created by people who actually saw or participated in an event and who then recorded that event or their reactions to it immediately after the event. Primary source documents include maps, documents, reports, photographs, letters, diaries, posters, and recordings.

What is a secondary source document?

A secondary source is a work that interprets or analyzes an historical event or phenomenon. It is generally at least one step removed from the event. Examples include scholarly or popular books and articles, reference books, and textbooks.

Why use primary sources in your classroom?

It brings geography and history alive to your students and allows students to analyze multiple perspectives of events. By allowing students to examine primary sources, students can begin to see history as more than a subject with just dates and names that are to be memorized for the next test and then quickly forgotten.

What are the benefits to your students?

It increases their ability to analyze and process ideas. This in turn increases their achievement on standardized testing.

How do I integrate primary sources into my classroom?

Start small. Introduce the concept of primary and secondary sources to your students. Have students bring in examples of each from their house. Discuss their importance to their family. Begin analyzing quotations from history, then move onto longer and perhaps more difficult material.

What methods have you had success with?

- Materials from the National Archives are a great place to start. The National Archives materials guide students through analyzing documents.
- Reader's Theatre
- Comparing and contrasting the change over time that can only be seen through historical maps.
- Comparing photographs from an era of history to modern photographs of the same period.
- Writing responses to famous letters from history.
- Role Playing
- Traveling back in time with the document as the only clue.

WEBSITES

www.cas.sc.edu/cege

SC Geographic Alliance - resources, news and events, contact info

www.myschools.com/offices/cso

SC Department of Education Office of Curriculum and Standards - content area web pages, standards

www.nationalgeographic.com/education/

National Geographic Educator's Homepage - lesson plans, maps and photos, current events, student activities

www.census.gov

US Census - maps, TIGER, gazetteer, data

www.charleston.net

www.thestate.com

www.greenvilleonline.com

SC major newspapers

www.nationalatlas.gov

printable maps, interactive maps, mapmaker

www.usgs.gov/education

lesson plans, models, map wizard, student activities

www.esri.com

GIS (Geography Information Systems) information, get maps, directions, data services

www.geographynetwork.com

classroom resources, explorer, web services

www.doi.gov

teacher resources, children's pages, web cams

www.archives.gov

records, archives, exhibit hall, research

www.cr.nps.gov

National Park Service "Link to the Past"

www.gmability.com

General Motors - lesson plans, activities and games (environmental, energy, and technology issues)

www.nystromnet.com

lesson plans, maps, teaching tips

www.peacecorps.gov

lesson plans, connect with a volunteer, stories, student section

www.terrafly.com

aerial and satellite imagery, topo maps, Terra Atlas

www.terraserver.com

on-line imagery

www.knowitall.org

SC ETV resources for teachers and students

http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/unit_s/byrnes-literature/lit.html

Utah State social studies lesson plans

www.enchantedlearning.com

some free downloads

www.michigan.gov/scope

lessons and units

www.maps.A9.com

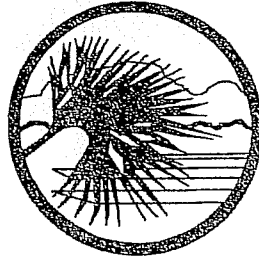
maps, photos, making maps

Where can I locate primary sources to use in my classroom?

- National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/index.html>
- Library of Congress Teacher Page: <http://www.memory.loc.gov/learn/>
- Collection of websites arranged by era - US and World:
<http://personal.pitnet.net/primarysources/>
- Excellent source for lesson plans and documents: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/>
- Over 5220 documents arranged by world regions:
<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>
- Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy:
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm>

By viewing the old we learn the new. Chinese Proverb

Nurture your mind with great thoughts. Benjamin Disraeli



South Carolina Geographic Alliance

Center of Excellence
for
Geographic Education

What is a Geography Alliance?

A network of K-12 educators and university geographers who use geography to improve the education of our children

What is our Primary Goal?

To bring the concepts and methodology of modern geography to the K-12 classroom by providing quality standards-based professional development opportunities for South Carolina educators

Who sponsors the Geographic Alliance Program?

It is a partnership between the State of South Carolina and the National Geographic Society

What are some of the Major Alliance Activities?

Geography and social studies standards-based professional development
Inservice and pre-service technology and hands-on teaching strategy demonstrations
Fall, winter, and spring statewide professional meetings - GEOFESTS
Alliance Summer Geography Institutes
Develop, produce, and disseminate high-quality print and multimedia teaching materials
College level pre-service courses in geography
National Geographic Bee
Website geography and social studies lessons and lesson plans
"Teaching Geography: Where and Why?" SCETV Recertification Credit course
Cooperate with institutions of higher education who offer little or no pre-service geography
Coordinate the Family Geography Challenge

Who belongs to the South Carolina Geographic Alliance?

K-12 educators, college professors, and other geography enthusiasts
Teacher Consultants (TC's) trained at USC and/or by the National Geographic Society
Membership is free to persons interested

Where Can I Get More Information?

Dr. Jerry T. Mitchell
Department of Geography
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208
1-888-895-2023
mitchejt@gwm.sc.edu



WHAT CAN THE SCGA DO FOR YOU?

- **FREE** workshops at your school
 - Integrating Standards
 - Geography Across the Curriculum
 - Global Studies
 - Technology
- **FREE** Resources for your classroom
 - CD-ROMs: IGSAM, SCIGLET, THIG, SCIG
 - Lesson Plans
 - SC Posters
 - SC Atlas
- **FLEXIBLE** scheduling with workshops designed to meet **YOUR** needs

Department of Geography
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
1-888-895-2023
803-777-4973
Fax: 803-777-4972
www.cas.sc.edu/cege