Today’s Objectives:

• Understand the holdings of the National Archives through a basic introduction

• Understand the educational resources of the National Archives in particular DocsTeach
What is the National Archives & Records Administration?

National Archives at Chicago – http://www.archives.gov/great-lakes/
What is the National Archives & Records Administration?
Teaching With Documents:

Lesson Plans

This section contains reproducible copies of primary documents from the holdings of the National Archives of the United States, teaching activities correlated to the National History Standards and National Standards for Civic and Government, and cross-curricular connections.

Teaching with primary documents encourages a varied learning environment for teachers and students alike. Lectures, demonstrations, analysis of documents, independent research, and group work become a gateway for research with historical records in ways that sharpen students' skills and enthusiasm for history, social studies, and the humanities.

- Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820s)
- Expansion and Reform (1865-1869)
- Civil War and Reconstruction (1865-1877)
- The Development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)
- The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930)
- The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)
- Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)
- Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)

PDF files require the free Adobe Reader.
More information on Adobe Acrobat PDF files is available on our Accessibility page.
What is the National Archives & Records Administration?
What is the National Archives & Records Administration?

• As the **nation's record keeper**, NARA collects, protects and makes available records created by the Federal government.

• Our records document:
  
  *The Rights of American Citizens*
  *The Actions of Federal Officials*
  *The National Experience*

and allow us to hold our government accountable for its actions.

• Our 23 billion records are housed across the nation in over 30 facilities, including presidential libraries.
So, what can actually be found in these billions of federal records?
Every one of the 23 billion or so documents in the holdings of the National Archives can be a teaching tool. . . A Letter about Elvis Being Drafted; The First Mad Magazine; A Telegram Announcing the Fall of Ft. Sumter; The Canceled Check for the Purchase of Alaska; The 1964 Civil Rights Act. . .
How does the National Archives at Chicago fit into this?

We have:

Federal agency records, including records of the Federal courts, created in the six Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

• Approximately 102,000 cubic feet
• Dating from 1800 to 1990s
• A variety of formats including paper records, maps, photos, and 3D artifacts

“federal records created at the local level”
The Grand Jurors of the United States of America duly assembled and sworn in the District Court of the United States for the Eastern Division of the Northern District of Illinois, at the March term of said Court in the year 1931 and inquiring for said Division and District upon their oath do present and charge that:

[Redacted text]

The Grand Jurors of the United States of America duly assembled and sworn in the District Court of the United States for the Eastern Division of the Northern District of Illinois, at the March term of said Court in the year 1931 and inquiring for said Division and District upon their oath do present and charge that:

[Redacted text]
Educational Resources of the National Archives at Chicago

- Educator Professional Development Workshops and In-service days (at our facility and in schools)

- Curriculum materials created and distributed through national resources (online and in print)

- Monthly E-Newsletter

- Research Opportunities and Assistance for Students, including Chicago Metro History Fair participants
Where do you start?

Eager to receive information on these resources?

Add your name to our mailing list through the sign-up sheet!
Bring history to life for your students

Join the Community
Access and contribute to our growing collection of activities.

Build a Portfolio
Bookmark documents now, create activities later.

Share Activities and Classrooms
Make custom activity sets for various student groups.

Ready-to-use tools for teaching with documents in the classroom.

More than 3,000 primary sources selected from the National Archives.

Find Activities
Find Documents
With Docs Teach you can:

BRING HISTORY TO LIFE FOR YOUR STUDENTS
with interactive activities that utilize primary sources & historical thinking tools.

Specifically:

1) Classroom “ready-to-roll” activities

2) Thousands of primary sources selected from the National Archives holdings

3) Opportunity to create new activities and adapt online versions

4) Save activities and documents in your own account
Ready-to-use activities are based on 1 of 7 tools. **each designed to teach one or more historical thinking skills**

**Finding a Sequence**
Present primary sources and challenge students to sequence them based on document analysis.

**Focusing on Details**
Showcase an intriguing document or pair of documents to prompt students to think critically about primary source documents.

**Interpreting Data**
Pose questions for students to solve through analyzing historical data.

**Making Connections**
Present primary sources as a string of documents and help students make connections among those documents and the historical events they illustrate.

**Mapping History**
Link primary sources to locations on a map and practice spatial thinking and understand the impact of geographic factors in history.

**Seeing the Big Picture**
Pair documents concerning a historical event, concept, or figure with descriptions, questions, or other documents to impress upon students that the whole is derived from smaller parts.

**Weighing the Evidence**
Turn primary sources into historical evidence that students sort through and evaluate to draw historical conclusions.
National Archives - DocsTeach – http://docsteach.org

Finding a Sequence
Present primary sources and challenge students to sequence them based on careful document analysis. more
Create an Activity +

Focusing on Details
Showcase an intriguing document or a pair of documents with tools to guide student thinking and spark classroom conversations. more
Create an Activity +

Making Connections
Present primary sources as a string of documents and help students make connections among those documents and the historical events they illustrate. more
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Mapping History
Link primary sources to locations on a map to practice spatial thinking and understand the impact of geographic factors in history. more
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Weighing the Evidence
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Create an Activity +
Comparing Civil War Recruitment Posters

http://docsteach.org/activities/21

Start Activity

Author:
National Archives Education Team, Washington, DC

Task:
Focusing on Details: Compare and Contrast

Historical Era:
Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

Primary Historical Thinking Skill:
Historical Analysis & Interpretation

Bloom's Taxonomy
Analyzing

Use to Create an Activity

Print this activity

Synopsis

Students will compare and contrast military recruitment posters to analyze various perspectives regarding the role of African Americans during the Civil War.

Teacher's Instructions

Objectives

Students will compare and contrast two military recruitment posters, determine the purpose of each one, and analyze how the use of language conveys the intended message. Use this activity when studying the different perspectives on the recruitment of African Americans and the institution of slavery during a unit on the Civil War. For grades 7-12. Refer to the background essay on African American soldiers in the Civil War for more detailed information and documents related to recruitment.
Find & use activities
crafted by educators using documents from the National Archives.

Use the search field above to find an activity by keyword.
Turn your students into historians with primary-source based activities that develop historical thinking skills. Activities are ready to use in your classroom. Or alter an existing activity to fit your unique needs. Exchange primary source documents and modify activity instructions. Login to borrow from an even larger selection from fellow educators.

Registered users can bookmark activities by starring them. Share your starred activities with your students via DocsTeach classrooms in your account.

Create activities
Use a creation tool to make your own interactive activity.

Historical Eras
Activities created on DocsTeach are categorized according to the National History Standards. Learn more about standards.

- (1754-1820s) Revolution and the New Nation
- (1801-1861) Expansion and Reform
- (1861-1877) Civil War and Reconstruction
- (1870-1890) The Development of the Industrial United States
- (1890-1930) The Emergence of Modern America
- (1920-1945) The Great
- (1945 to early 1970s) Rocker
- (1960 to the present) Contemporary
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<td>Focusing on Details: Zoom/Crop Examing the Daily Routines of ...</td>
<td>Ms. Duncan</td>
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<td>Making Connections Civil War Leaders</td>
<td>Ms. Hinko</td>
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<td>Finding a Sequence Exploring Harriet Tubman’s ...</td>
<td>Masri Samadi</td>
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How Effective were the Efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau?

Interpretation One
The Freedmen’s Bureau was effective in providing for the wants and needs of formerly enslaved persons.

Interpretation Two
The Freedmen’s Bureau was ineffective in providing for the wants and needs of formerly enslaved persons.
Want to create custom activities for the classroom?  
Share your activities with students by using DocsTeach Classrooms?  
Use lessons that other educators have created?  
Explore, bookmark, and share primary sources from the National Archives?

**Registration is quick and easy!**

Choose a user name
Enter your email address

Choose a password
Enter your password again

Register

Registered users can save activities in an account or publish their activities to be used in DocsTeach Classrooms. Published activities are available to all logged-in users of the site. Authors of excellent examples may be contacted and their activities could become featured and available to the general public. Published activities without unique titles or author names may be unpublished but will remain saved in the user's account.
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<td>Focusing on Details: White out/Black out</td>
<td>03/09/2011</td>
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Choose from thousands of primary sources for use in classroom activities.

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(1801-1861)
Expansion and Reform

(1865-1877)
Civil War and Reconstruction

(1870-1900)
The Development of the Industrial United States

(1890-1930)
The Emergence of Modern America

(1929-1945)
The Great Depression and World War II

(1945 to early 1970s)
Postwar United States

(1968 to the present)
Contemporary United States

We have selected thousands of primary source documents to bring the past to life as classroom teaching tools from the billions preserved at the National Archives. Use the search field above to find written documents, images, maps, charts, graphs, audio and video in our ever-expanding collection that spans the course of American history.

Registered users can bookmark documents by starring them.
http://docsteach.org
DocsTeach Tutorials on the National Archives’ YouTube Channel

http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives#grid/user/96883AFF763C6D40
After Today

Questions, concerns, eager to brainstorm ideas for your classroom . . .

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