Chapter Eleven

Find Primary Sources

In these chapters we've examined how to interpret primary sources, and we've used many examples. But we know that finding the right primary sources can be difficult. The primary sources we've shown you so far can usually be found (in high resolution) on the Internet. Most have detailed attribution and credit information. Most contain a lot of detail and information. Most can be connected to easily attainable additional research. None of that is coincidence. We spent time to find images and text that would provide the depth that would make them useful and interesting tools in your classroom. A lot of time. And we're pros.

That's why we included the previous chapter containing activities we've already researched. Our publisher, Capstone, also has materials that could be used to study primary sources. Capstone has just brought out a series of books called *First-Person Histories*, each one of which is based on a diary by a young person. Capstone's subscription site, *PebbleGo*, contains databases with content for elementary grades. The *PebbleGo* books have photographs, which can be used for analysis in the early grades.

Of course, you can also do your own research for primary sources. Finding good primary sources is possible without dedicating *all* your limited free time to the effort. In this chapter we're going to give you some suggestions for doing that.

Starting Your Search

Start with your textbooks and other educational materials. When making a good textbook, the publishers and their staff put considerable effort into finding material to complement the lesson material. They may not give you sufficient captions, credits, and attributions, but finding those for yourself just might be easier than starting from scratch. We've given quite a few examples of how this works in Chapter Seven, when discussing Strategy 5: Find more information. For the earliest grades, books with photographs that show the natural world as well as different families, communities, and societies can be used to teach basic interpretation and research skills, even those with stock photos.

If you want to go beyond your textbook or if you can't find enough information to assure yourself that the image or quoted material in your textbook is actually a primary source or has enough internal content to make it an interesting exploration, then you can do your own research.

If you've ever given your students an assignment that involves finding images, you know what happens. They go straight to Google Images. Teachers joke and tear their hair out about it. And we sympathize, but Google Images is not evil, no matter what anyone says, and it can be very useful so long as you understand what it can and cannot do for you.

Now, this might seem obvious, but Google Images is not a site of images collected by Google. It is simply part of the Google search engine. All it does is gather together the images from sites all over the Internet that relate to your search term. The fact that an image shows up in a Google Images search tells you nothing about whether it's copyrighted or, in fact, anything else of value. However, from a pure research perspective, Google Images is often a very good place to get an idea of what's out there and being used by others on the Internet. If you find an image you like, you can click on the "Visit page" button, which will sometimes lead you to the institution that owns the image. That is the place most likely to have good information about the image.

In the higher grades your students will certainly use Google Images at home to prepare history projects and papers. It's important that they be aware that many of the sites that use images (and therefore that appear in the results of a Google Images search) don't have attributions. In other words, those sites will not tell them what the images are, where they came from, who created them, and all the other information they need. Also, you can't trust that you're getting what you searched for. If you use the search term "Alexander Hamilton," not every image that shows up will be of Alexander Hamilton. If the name is on a website page and an image of someone else, say Aaron Burr, is on the same page, Google Images is likely to give you that image. So a student might illustrate a paper on Hamilton with a picture of his worst enemy.

And as a teacher, you probably won't want to use Google Images as part of a classroom research activity unless you have already carefully vetted the search term and its possible results.

There are some very good alternatives to Google, and you'll probably want to try them. First, don't forget the library. Photo books and illustrated histories are your friends. We often begin our own photographic research with a look at books of photographs. Most will have good captions and extensive photo credits. Most will use repositories beyond Corbis, Getty, and Alamy.

Then there are literally thousands of sites online that contain photographs. Fewer contain primary source text, but there are many. Stock photo houses are searchable, as are news sites such as AP Photos. Most state archives or historical societies have searchable websites of digital images from their collections. Our website www.onehistory.org contains lists of some of these state institutions. On the right side of the home page, you'll see "Get Away from Google! Click there to see these lists.

There are also a lot of sites specifically designed to provide teachers and students with material to supplement their texts. Many of them are available only by subscription, but that doesn't mean you can't get access to them.

Subscription Sites

Text and Images

Every—or virtually every—public library now has online reference works and databases among its offerings. If you have a library card, you can use these databases. The reference works and databases each municipality chooses will be different, but it would be a good idea to check yours and see what they have to offer. Three of the most popular are listed here.

PebbleGo

Capstone's subscription site, *PebbleGo*, contains databases with content for emergent readers. The *PebbleGo* books also have photographs, which can be used for analysis in the early grades.

Facts on File—History Database

This is an excellent subscription site for primary sources. Look in your local municipal library's online databases to see if they have it. It is a gateway to several separate databases, including:

- African-American History Online
- American History Online
- American Indian History Online
- American Women's History Online
- Ancient and Medieval History Online
- Modern World History Online

Each of these databases has a separate section on primary sources, both image and text. These are searchable and also organized by topics. The user can also search all databases at once. The primary sources have introductory essays.

Images can be searched through the "Images and Videos" tab. The attributions for the photographs are generally quite good. In many if not most cases, the image citation tells you where to go to find the original image. The images can also be made larger.

U. S. History in Context—Gale

This site is another excellent way to find primary source text. To search for primary sources in this site, go to the search box on the homepage. There, you are given the option to search only for primary sources or only for images. As an example, a primary source search for "abolition" gave 105 results. The images on the site are less useful than on the Facts on File site, largely because many image citations refer back to a previous Gale publication rather than an original source. Also, the images cannot be made larger.

Free Sites

Text, Images, Audio, and Video

American Memory at the Library of Congress

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

The American Memory collection contains primary source images, maps, and texts from across the Library itself as well as from places such as the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and the Ohio Historical Society. One of the most important collections within American Memory is the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) slave narratives, which were recorded from 1936 to 1938.

Smithsonian Institute

http://collections.si.edu/search/

The Smithsonian Institute is enormous (963,000 online items) so basic searches can lead to huge numbers of results. However, the site allows narrowing of search terms, so you can click on "online media" and narrow your search to include only images and then go even further and click on "type" and narrow "images" to include only "photographs." For example, at the time of this writing, the search term "penguin" produced 2,414 results. Narrowing the search to only images produced 147 results. Narrowing images down to "outdoor sculpture" produced 22 results. There are options for browsing various collections as well. The site provides an excellent zoom capability for looking at details but does not have high-resolution downloads available.

National Archives

http://www.archives.gov/research/search/

The National Archives search engine is called OPA and you can get very detailed in the types of searches you want to do. It's not the easiest or most intuitive site. Use the "advanced search" option to narrow your searches to photographs or moving

images or documents, etc. A far quicker and easier way to find images from the National Archives is via their Docs Teach program (http://docsteach.org/documents) or via Flickr's The Commons (https://www.flickr.com/commons). For more about both sites, see below.

The National Archives is the place to go for Mathew Brady and Lewis Hine images as well as documents connected to the fight to end child labor. There is also a lesser-known series of photographs commissioned by the EPA in the 1970s, Documerica. This was a program to photographically document subjects of environmental concern in America during the 1970s and, like the FSA collection at the Library of Congress, it provides a picture of an era. As with other searches, it will be important for you to check the images to assume their appropriateness prior to sharing them with the class.

National Archives YouTube Channel

http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives

The National Archives YouTube Channel has a variety of videos, everything from a World War II era newsreel on how to recognize a Japanese Zero airplane to a half hour documentary on the Great Depression using Archive photographs and oral histories.

Digital History

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/index.cfm

This excellent site provides complete lessons and resources on American history. Users can explore the site in many ways, including by topic and by era. By clicking various tabs a user can find textual primary sources, images, and teacher resources. The "For Teachers" section provides lesson plans, handouts, learning modules, and resource guides. While the lessons are probably best for high school students, many elements of the site are certainly adaptable and useful for lower grades as well.

Internet Archive

https://archive.org/

This Internet library is free and has an enormous amount of content, everything from newspapers to video to music to oral histories. The only thing not offered is images. It was founded to provide permanent access to historical collections that exist in digital format. Now the Internet Archive includes texts, audio, moving images, and software as well as archived web pages. It also provides specialized services for adaptive reading and information access for the blind and other persons with disabilities. One quick search in the audio section using the term "World War I" led to an interview with a World War I veteran made in 1968 as part of a junior high school history project.

Documenting the American South

http://docsouth.unc.edu/

This is an excellent site that contains texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture.

Famous Speeches in History—Audio Online—The History Channel

http://www.history.com/speeches

This section of the History Channel website has recordings of major events throughout history from the first sound recording ever made to Amelia Earhart talking about women in flight to Rodney King's statements during the Los Angeles riots. There are ads, however.

Digital Schomburg at the New York Public Library

http://www.nypl.org/locations/tid/64/node/65914

When you're looking for primary sources about African-Americans, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is the place to go. There are excellent exhibits on a variety of subjects and more than 11,000 items, including prints, photographs, and historical documents on African and African Diasporan history and cultures from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

New Deal Network

http://newdeal.feri.org/

This is an excellent site containing primary source text and images on the New Deal.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

http://collections.ushmm.org/search

Over 200,000 photos, films, artifacts, publications, documents, and oral histories are listed. Not all are available online, but many are. On the left side of the search screen a list of the digital resources among the results are listed separately. The site is easy to use and the details accompanying the sources are generally excellent.

Repositories of Primary Sources

http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html

This site provides a listing of over 5,000 websites describing holdings of primary sources from around the world. This is too large to be useful for most teachers, but if you want to track down something in your state, this might be the place to go.

Image Only

Flickr

http://www.flickr.com/ and https://www.flickr.com/commons

The photo sharing site Flickr is excellent, especially the section, **The Commons,** which increasingly is becoming our favorite site for images. The Commons contains photographs from public photography archives all over the world. It includes the Library of Congress, National Archives, and Smithsonian Institute as well as smaller institutions, such as the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and international organizations, such as the National Archives of Estonia. These institutions have not placed all of their collections on Flickr, but the sheer number and variety of institutions participating provides interesting search results. Plus you can search within The Commons collection. For example, a search using the word "holiday" resulted in an image of Ronald Reagan and Coretta Scott King at a signing ceremony for Martin Luther King Day, images of Purim and Hanukkah from the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest, and a 1939 McCall's magazine cover from the George Eastman House among many, many others. The attributions are excellent, but not all the participating institutions provide high-resolution copies the way the Library of Congress does. (Getty Images has some of its collection up on Flickr, but it is just as easy to search images directly on the Getty site.)

Library of Congress - Prints and Photographs Division

http://www.loc.gov/pictures/

One of the best sources on the Internet! Most of the images we have used in this book are from Prints and Photographs Division (P&P) of Library of Congress and while not all of the images on the P&P site are available in large sizes, many are. It is easily searchable, the attributions are excellent, and the "Ask a Librarian" feature is great for additional research.

National Geographic

http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/

National Geographic is known for its fantastic photographs. Particularly for students in the younger grades, its photographs of animals, people, and landscapes from around the world can be excellent primary sources. Sadly, some of the galleries don't have a very large number of photos, but it is definitely worth the time to check the site.

National Geographic Kids

http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/

This site also has good resources for students and teachers.

Denver Public Library

http://digital.denverlibrary.org/

The Library's Digital Collection contains thousands of images of Colorado and the American West. This is a larger collection of images than the DPL images in the American Memory collection.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

http://www.metmuseum.org/ and

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/

The collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) contain artifacts from all parts of the ancient world. From the homepage click on "Collections." Then click on "Search the Collections." The Met also offers the Heilbrunn Timeline of World History, which can be explored by time period, region, and theme. The Timeline of World History is made up of 300 timelines, 930 essays, and about 7,000 objects.

Art Resource

http://www.artres.com/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=ARTHO1_3_VForm&Flash=1

This organization is a licensing house for thousands of museums and archives from around the world. In other words, it provides photographs of the art to publishers for a fee. It is not meant as a research site. *However*, it does contain art from so many institutions that it can be an interesting place to start a search when looking for primary sources about the ancient world. Of particular interest are the photographs on the site of archaeological digs. For example there are pictures of Tutankhamen's tomb as Howard Carter found it. Sadly, the images on this site are small and there are no free high-resolution versions available.

Bridgeman Art Library

http://www.bridgemanart.com/en-GB/

Like Art Resource, Bridgeman is also a licensing house for thousands of museums and archives from around the world and is not meant as a research site. It does represent institutions that do not have their own digitized collections, such as the Iraq Museum, Bagdad. Bridgeman has photographs of many Sumerian and Mesopotamian artifacts from the Iraq Museum, including a bust of Sargon I. There are no free high-resolution versions available, but the images display at a decent size.

Text Only

Internet History Sourcebook Project

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/

This site contains primary source texts from ancient to modern history, but they are largely above the K–8 level.

Primary Source Materials & Document Based Questions: An Internet Hotlist on Document Based Questions

http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listdocumentpa.html

This site does not contain primary source documents, but rather provides links to over 40 sites that do. This site also has links to Document-Based Questions (DBQs).

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Primary Sources

https://www.gilderlehrman.org/collection

The Gilder Lehrman Institute is an excellent resource for anything to do with American history. It's free for students and teachers. The "Primary Sources" section provides images of the actual source as well as a typed transcription and excellent contextual information.

The University of Oklahoma Law Center: A Chronology of U. S. Historical Documents

http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/

This site provides historical documents from pre-colonial days to the present, including songs, speeches, and letters.

Oral Histories

While oral histories can be found in some of the other sites listed in this chapter, the sites in this section focus on them. Just as with the Michigan City Public Library which provided an excerpt we use in the book, many localities have done oral histories which are now housed online.

History Matters: Oral History Online

http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/oral/online.html

A great overview page with links to oral history sites, some of which are also listed below.

American Life Histories, Federal Writers' Project, Library of Congress, American Memory

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html

This site features approximately 2,900 life histories, both in transcribed and image form, collected from 1936-1940.

Slave Narratives, Federal Writers' Project, Library of Congress, American Memory

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html

From 1936 to 1938 the Federal Writers Project sent out people to interview former slaves. This collection is now part of the Library of Congress. Be aware that every type of experience is described in these interviews, some portray slavery as benign and others are quite graphic and violent.

Southern Oral History Program Collection

http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/sohp

Over 5,000 interviews with men and women–from mill workers to civil rights leaders to future presidents of the United States

There are a number of Dust Bowl oral history programs on the web. Two are:

Dust Bowl Oral History Project - Black Sunday, April 14, 1935, Dodge City, Kansas

http://www.kansashistory.us/fordco/dustbowl/

Recollections of one of the worst dust storms in U.S. history.

Dust Drought and Dreams Gone Dry: Oklahoma Women in the Dust Bowl Oral History Project

http://dc.library.okstate.edu/cdm/search/collection/Dustbowl

Fifty interviews that took place between 2000 and 2001 of women who lived in some of the hardest hit counties in the Dust Bowl.

Rutgers Oral History Archives of World War II

http://fas-history.rutgers.edu/oralhistory/orlhom.htm

More than 160 full-text interviews record of men and women (mostly Rutgers alumni) who served overseas and on the homefront during World War II.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Oral Histories

http://collections.ushmm.org/search

The Holocaust Museum has an impressive collection of over 65,000 videotaped oral histories of survivors of the Holocaust. Easy to access and play, they are quite long however. Most appear to be at least 1 to 1½ hours.

IWitness, USC Shoah Foundation

http://sfi.usc.edu/teach_and_learn/iwitness

A free site, but you have to register to participate, it provides access to nearly 1,300 full life histories, testimonies of survivors and witnesses to the Holocaust and other genocides for guided exploration.

The Civil Rights History Project

http://www.loc.gov/collection/civil-rights-history-project/about-this-collection/

A new program from the Library of Congress and National Museum of African American History and Culture records the memories of civil rights workers both famous and unknown.

Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive

http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/crda/

125 oral histories relating to the civil rights movement, drawn from the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History Collection. Most are text only. Twenty five also have audio clips.

Sophia Smith Collection, Women's History Archives at Smith College

https://www.smith.edu/library/libs/ssc/ohlist.html

A variety of oral histories of feminism and the women's movement from different collections within the archives

Science, Earth Science and Geography

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

http://www.noaa.gov/

There are many, many parts to NOOA and its website is an excellent resource for photos and videos. However, videos and images from NOOA (the primary sources that are most relevant for a K–8 classroom and most readily available) are not organized together in one searchable database. To find videos, enter the search term "video" and choose among the various sub-agencies' pages of videos. Photographs are easier to search.

NOAA Photo Library

http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/index.html

The NOAA Photo Library gathers together many images from the sub-agencies. It contains 32,000 images including thousands of weather and space images, hundreds of images of our shores and coastal seas, and thousands of marine species images ranging from the great whales to the most minute plankton. The Photo Library page also has a tab "Links" that connects the user to other NOAA image collections.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/index.html

The multimedia section of the NASA website has tabs for educators and for students, as well as links that provide access to images, videos, and NASA TV.

Lesson Plans, etc.

Reading Like a Historian-Stanford History Education Group

http://sheg.stanford.edu/rlh

This ever expanding group of lessons by Sam Wineburg and his colleagues includes incredible and beautifully thought out lesson plans for U.S. and world history. The U.S. history lessons everything from "Pocahontas" to "Anti-Vietnam War Movement." Even rarer are the site's world history lessons which go from "Egyptian Pyramids" to "China's Cultural Revolution." This site is a treasure.

Library of Congress, Teachers and Teaching with Primary Sources
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/ and

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/

These are wonderful sites on the Library's resources and on how to teach using primary sources. The main "Teachers" page" provides primary source "sets" that are searchable by grade and type of standard (Common Core, state, and organization) as well as a page that summarizes questions to ask with students, http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/. "The Teaching With Primary Sources" section focuses on how to use the collections of the Library in the classroom, primarily through the *TPS Journal*, which contains excellent articles about teaching with primary sources.

TPS—Barat Primary Source Nexus

http://primarysourcenexus.org/

This is a free professional development site connected to the Library of Congress, Teaching with Primary Sources. It provides lesson ideas and plans, tips, a blog and more. There is good content for a variety of levels, but it's probably most useful for grades 5–12.

National Archives Experience—Docs Teach and National Archives Teacher's Resource

http://docsteach.org/, http://docsteach.org/documents, and

http://www.archives.gov/education/

The "Docs Teach" section provides lesson plans using primary sources from the National Archives. The "Teacher's Resources" section provides links for educators. The "Special Topics and Tools" page provides links to a few National Archives e-books.

Smithsonian-Engaging Students with Primary Sources

http://historyexplorer.si.edu/PrimarySources.pdf

This is a pdf by the National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center with lessons plans and students worksheets focusing on types of primary sources, such as photographs, newspapers, and oral histories.

Smithsonian Source, Resources for Teaching American History

http://www.smithsoniansource.org/

This site provides videos, a few lesson plans and DBQ activities in six categories, ranging from Colonial America to Inventions. It also provides links to stand-alone primary sources from the Smithsonian collection, but the site is very small and does not give the user access to all the Smithsonian's many primary source items.

Primary Source—Resources, Online Curriculum

http://www.primarysource.org/ps-world

This site provides lesson plans using primary sources about different parts of the world and world history. Most are for higher grades, but a few are specifically aimed at elementary students.

Other

Doing Internet Research at the Elementary Level

http://www.edutopia.org/blog/elementary-research-mary-beth-hertz

This is a good, basic, one-page overview of how to help focus students for Internet research.

Things to Think About

1. How would it benefit your teaching to be able to find your own primary sources?

2. Do you already use one of the sites mentioned in this chapter? What do you like about it?

3. How would it help you to broaden your knowledge of online and print resources for primary sources?