

Primary Source Analysis

Author:

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Subject /Grade Level: 4th grade Alabama History

Overview: Analyzing primary sources is an important component of study for historians and greatly furthers our understanding of historical events. During this activity students will read and carefully evaluate a primary source using the primary source analysis worksheet provided by the National Archives and Records Administration of the United States.

Objective: Students will learn how to carefully analyze a primary source.

Alabama Dept. of Education Curriculum Standard:

SS2010 (4) Alabama Studies	6. Describe cultural, economic, and political aspects of the lifestyles of early nineteenth-century farmers, plantation owners, slaves, and townspeople. Examples: cultural—housing, education, religion, recreation economic—transportation, means of support political—inequity of legal codes • Describing major areas of agricultural production in Alabama, including the Black Belt and fertile river valleys
ELA2015 (4)	11. Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text. [RI.4.2]
ELA2015 (4)	10. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. [RI.4.1]

Time Needed: 45 minutes

Material Needed:

[Written Document Analysis Worksheet](#)

Digital Projector

Computer with Internet Access

Primary Source:

[Montgomery County slaveholder's affidavit.](#)

Procedures:

- Step 1: Introduce the lesson by explaining what primary sources are and how they differ from secondary sources. Also explain why they are important in studying history.
- Step 2: The teacher should then bring up the primary source on the digital projector and hand out the worksheet.
- Step 3: The teacher should go over the primary source with the students and guide them through the worksheet.
- Step 4: Teacher should allow the students to complete the worksheet individually.

Accommodations/Modifications: Students who need additional help will work in pairs with other students who are serving as peer helpers. The teacher will also work with students in small groups.

Assessment: Students should be evaluated based on the completion of the worksheet.