Sixth Grade Social Studies Primary Documents and Supporting Texts

**Teacher’s Guide:** Helpful strategies form the Library of Congress to help students analyze primary resources.

**Document Analysis Worksheets:** Analysis worksheets were designed and developed by the Education Staff of the National Archives and Records Administration. You may find these worksheets useful as you introduce students to various documents.

- Primary Source Analysis Tool, a.k.a. Analysis Tool for Students (for all kinds of primary sources)
  - Interactive, Web-based format
  - Writable, printable PDF format

**Human Origins in Africa through the Neolithic Age**

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: Digital collections of early African art and tools, including cave paintings and spears [rock art]
What it means to be human by the Smithsonian Institute [http://humanorigins.si.edu/](http://humanorigins.si.edu/)

**Mesopotamia**

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from the Epic of Gilgamesh; digital collections of the ancient Mesopotamian plow, wheel, sailboat, cuneiform tablets, and the stylus

**Ancient Egypt**

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: Digital collections of Egyptian Pyramids, including the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza; digital collections of the Pyramid Texts on the wall of the burial chamber of the Pyramid of Teti, Saqqara; digital collections of documents written on papyri

**Ancient India**

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from the epic Hindu literature Bhagavad Gita; excerpts from Ramayana; excerpts from Mahabharata
Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from Hindu Search for Divine Reality: excerpts from The Upanishads; excerpts from the Buddha’s Two Lessons

**Ancient China**

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from The Mandate of Heaven: The Classic of History; excerpts from Confucius’ The Analects, excerpts from The Lament of the Nomad Flute by Lady Wenji

**Ancient Israel**

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from the Tanach, Hebrew Bible, the Torah, and the Dead Sea Scrolls

**Ancient Greece**

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from Homer’s Iliad and the Odyssey; excerpts from Pericles’ Funeral Oration; excerpts from
Alexander by Plutarch; excerpts from Aesop's Fables (or the Aesopica); excerpts from Aristotle’s The Athenian Constitution; excerpts from The Battle of Marathon; excerpts from Everyday Life in Ancient Greece (4th Century BC)

Ancient Rome

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from Roman Literature, including Ovid’s Metamorphoses, excerpts from the Dead Sea Scrolls, excerpts from The Essenes' Manual of Discipline, excerpts from Plutarch’s The Assassination of Julius Caesar, (44 BC), excerpts from Plutarch’s writings on Spartacus and Seneca’s descriptions of gladiators; excerpts from the New Testament

Items to view: art sculptures depicting Romulus and Remus, Ancient bust of Julius Caesar, discovered by French archaeologist divers scouring the bottom of the Rhône in the southern town of Arles, which Caesar founded in 46 B.C., digital collections of authentic ancient Roman Art and Architecture, including: the Colosseum, arches, arenas, aqueducts, baths, and bridges