

Eighth Grade Social Studies Primary Documents and Supporting Texts

[Teacher's Guide](#): Helpful strategies from 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](#)

Colonialism (1600-1750)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from [The First Virginia Charter, 1606](#); [The Mayflower Compact, 1620](#); excerpts from the [Charter of Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1629](#); excerpts from [The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, 1639](#); excerpts from [The Maryland Toleration Act, 1649](#); excerpts from [The New England Articles of Confederation](#); excerpts from [A Historie of Virginia, \("starving time"\) John Smith](#); excerpts from [Of Plymouth Plantation, William Bradford](#)

Development of a New Nation (1720-1787)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from ["Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, Patrick Henry](#); [The Declaration of Independence](#); excerpts from ["Common Sense"](#) and ["The Crisis," Thomas Paine](#); excerpts from [Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin](#)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Consider: excerpts from Andrew Hamilton's closing argument in the [trial of John Peter Zenger](#); excerpts from [John Donelson's journal](#)

The Constitution and Foundation of the American Political System (1777-1789)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from [The Articles of Confederation](#); the [U.S. Constitution](#); The Federalist Paper [#10](#) and [#51](#); [The Bill of Rights](#); [Washington's Farewell Address](#)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Consider: excerpts from [The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#) and [James Madison](#); [Patrick Henry's arguments against ratification](#)

Growth of the Young Nation (1789-1849)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from [the journals of Lewis and Clark](#); excerpts from decision in [Marbury vs. Madison](#), John Marshall

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Consider: excerpts from John

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Marshall's decisions in [Gibbons v. Ogden](#) and [McCulloch v. Maryland](#); excerpts from "[Rip Van Winkle](#)" and "[The Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#)", Washington Irving; excerpts from [The Deerslayer](#) series, James Fenimore Cooper

The United States' Role on the World Stage (1789-1849)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from [The Monroe Doctrine](#)

The Sectionalism of the American North, South, and West (1800-1850)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from "[The Declaration of Sentiments](#)," Seneca Falls Convention; excerpts from "[Nature](#)" and "[Self-Reliance](#)", Ralph Waldo Emerson; excerpts from "[Walden](#)" and "[Civil Disobedience](#)," Henry David Thoreau; excerpts from "[Ain't I A Woman](#)," Sojourner Truth translated by Frances Dana Barker Gage; excerpts from [Eliza Bryan of the New Madrid Earthquakes](#)

Primary Document and Supporting Texts to Consider: excerpts from [Roughing It](#), Mark Twain; excerpts from [A Narrative in the Life of David Crockett of the state of Tennessee, David Crockett](#)

Slavery in America (1800-1850)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from [Uncle Tom's Cabin, Beecher Stowe](#); excerpts from the [Lincoln-Douglas Debates](#); excerpts from Roger Taney's decision in the [Dred Scott case](#); excerpts from [The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass, Frederick Douglass](#).

Civil War (1830-1865)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from the "[House Divided](#)" speech in 1858, [Gettysburg Address](#) in 1863, [Emancipation Proclamation](#) in 1863, and Inaugural Addresses in [1861](#) and [1865](#), Abraham Lincoln; excerpts from [The Respective of Co. Aytch, Sam Watkins](#)

Reconstruction (1865-1877)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from the [13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution](#).

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Consider: excerpts from [Black Codes](#) and [Jim Crow](#) Laws.

Westward Expansion after the Civil War (1865-1890)

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read: excerpts from [A Century of Dishonor](#), Helen Hunt Jackson.