

Scott's Great Snake and Beyond: Identifying Bias in Primary Sources

Developed By: Zach Wilson

Suggested Time: 1 hour



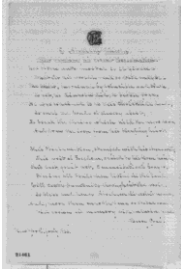
Objectives:

- Identify bias in variously formatted primary sources
- Make observations and record evidence of bias
- Hypothesize on the point of view taken by the author/creator of a source



Procedure:

1. Examine [Scott's Great Snake](#) with the entire class, discussing the characterizations of each state and the differences between northern and southern states. Make inferences about the mapmaker's point-of-view and bias based on these observations.
 - a. What evidence do you observe that supports your interpretation?
 - b. What might be different if this map was made by someone else with an alternate point of view?
2. Discuss the issue of bias and questions raised by it (i.e. Everyone has an angle)
 - a. Is this source trustworthy? Why or why not?
3. Divide the class into three to four groups and assign each group two or three primary sources
 - a. Each group should examine their sources and record observations, reflections, and questions on the [Primary Source Analysis Tool](#) for each source.
 - b. Groups should also record inferences and supporting evidence about bias by answering these questions about each source:
 - i. **Bias:** *What is the point of view or bias of the author/creator?*
 - ii. **Supporting Evidence:** *What evidence do you observe from each source that led you to this conclusion?*
4. After groups have had time to analyze their sources, discuss each one with the whole class, noting important pieces of evidence and interpretations of bias.



Thumbnail Image	Document Title, Author/Creator, Date	Collection or Repository, Reproduction # or Digital ID, Library of Congress URL
Primary Source Set #1		
	<p>Title: Union County star and Lewisburg chronicle., February 01, 1861, Image 4</p> <p>Creator: O.N. Worden & J.R. Cornelius</p> <p>Created/ Published: February 1, 1861</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85038443/1861-02-01/ed-1/seq-4/</p>
	<p>Title: The great exhibition of 1860</p> <p>Creator(s): Currier & Ives</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: [New York] : Published by Currier & Ives, 152 Nassau St. N.Y., c1860.</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction: LC-USZ62-14226</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003674593/</p>
	<p>Title: Barry Gray to Abraham Lincoln, January 1863 (Poem celebrating Emancipation Proclamation)</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: 1863</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Manuscript Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/214/2146100/malpage.db&recNum=0</p>



	<p>Title: Arlington, Va. Guns and gun-crews of Fort Richardson</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: Between 1860 and 1865</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-cwpb-01495</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/wp2003000936/PP/</p>
<p>Primary Source Set #2</p>		
	<p>Title: The adventures of General Beauregard and his charger--In four parts</p> <p>Creator/Publisher, Date: Philadelphia: Published by Samuel Upham, 1861</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-99066</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661782/</p>
	<p>Title: The pending conflict</p> <p>Creator(s): Woods, Oliver Evans, Herline & Hensel</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: 1864</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-17728</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661658/</p>
	<p>Title: J. W. Alden to George Thompson, Thursday, July 14, 1864 (Alden opposes Lincoln's reelection)</p> <p>Date: Thursday, July 14, 1864</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Manuscript Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/344/3447500/malpage.db&recNum=2</p>





Title: Yorktown, Virginia (vicinity). Confederate fortifications reinforced with bales of cotton





**Date Created/
Published:** 1862

Repository: Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs Division
Washington, D.C. 20540 USA





Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-
cwpb-01600

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/wp2003004754/PP/>



Primary Source Set #3		
	<p>Title/Date: The Chattanooga daily rebel., February 18, 1863, Image 1</p> <p>Publisher: F.M. Paul</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015209/1863-02-18/ed-1/seq-1/</p>
	<p>Title: The pending contest. Although all Copperheads call themselves Democrats, nevertheless, all Democrats are not Copperheads</p> <p>Creator(s): Woods, Oliver Evans, Herline & Hensel</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: Philadelphia : Published by Oliver Evans Woods, 1864</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-12746</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661659/</p>
	<p>Title: Johnny, fill up the bowl!</p> <p>Publisher: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J. H. Johnson</p> <p>No Date</p>	<p>Repository: Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress</p> <p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/amss:@field(DOCID+@lit(cw103090))</p>
	<p>Title: Confederate fortifications, Atlanta, Ga.</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: photographed between 1861 and 1865, printed later</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-121759</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98516408/</p>



Primary Source Set #4		
	<p>Title/Date: New-York daily tribune., January 27, 1860, Page 4, Image 4</p> <p>Publisher: Greeley & McElrath</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030213/1860-01-27/ed-1/seq-4/</p>
	<p>Title: The pending conflict</p> <p>Creator(s): Woods, Oliver Evans</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: Phil., PA: Published by Oliver Evans Woods, 1863</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-42025</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661653/</p>
	<p>Title: New Johnny, fill up the bowl! Tune- When Johnny comes marching home.</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: J. H. Johnson's card and job printing office, &c., [n. d.]</p>	<p>Repository: Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress</p> <p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/amss:@field(OCID+@lit(cw103120))</p>
	<p>Title: The great American What is it? chased by Copper-heads</p> <p>Creator: Nichols, E. W. T.</p> <p>Date Created/ Published: [Boston]; 1863.</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p> <p>Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pmsca-22015</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661651/</p>

