

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 <u>Scott's Great Snake</u> 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 <u>Primary Source Analysis Tool</u> 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.



ELIBRARY OF TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES

Thumbnail Image	Document Title, Author/Creator, Date	Collection or Repository, Reproduction # or Digital ID, Library of Congress URL		
Primary Source Set #1				
CAIST SECRET STAR AND LEWISCHES CHINGS NOT A STAR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE	Title: Union County star and Lewisburg chronicle., February 01, 1861, Image 4	Repository: Library of Congress Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers Washington, D.C. 20540 USA		
	Creator: O.N. Worden & J.R. Cornelius	http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lcc n/sn85038443/1861-02-01/ed-		
	Created/ Published: February 1, 1861	1/seq-4/		
THE COLUMN TO LINE.	Title: The great exhibition of 1860	Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA		
	Creator(s): Currier & Ives	Reproduction: LC-USZ62-14226		
	<pre>Date Created/ Published: [New York] : Published by Currier & Ives, 152 Nassau St. N.Y., c1860.</pre>	http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2 003674593/		
C. of the thinking of medical and the control of th	Title: Barry Gray to Abraham Lincoln, January 1863 (Poem celebrating Emancipation	Repository: Library of Congress Manuscript Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA		
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1141	Date Created/ Published: 1863	<u>Num=0</u>		



LIBRARY OF TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES



Title: Arlington, Va. Guns and gun-crews of Fort

Richardson

Date Created/

Published: Between 1860

and 1865

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

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-

cwpb-01495

http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/c
wp2003000936/PP/

Primary Source Set #2



Title: The adventures of General Beauregard and his charger--In four parts

Creator/Publisher, Date: Philadelphia: Published by Samuel Upham, 1861 **Repository:** Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-

99066

http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2 008661782/



Title: The pending conflict

Creator(s): Woods, Oliver Evans, Herline & Hensel

Date Created/ Published: 1864 **Repository:** Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-

17728

http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2 008661658/

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Title: J. W. Alden to George Thompson, Thursday, July 14, 1864 (Alden opposes Lincoln's reelection)

Date: Thursday, July 14,

1864

Repository: Library of Congress Manuscript Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

http://memory.loc.gov/cgibin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName= mal1/344/3447500/malpage.db&rec Num=2



LIBRARY OF TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES



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/cwp2003004754/PP/



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Primary Source Set #3				
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	Evans, Herline & Hensel			
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	Woods, 1864			
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	Title: Confederate	Repository: Library of Congress		
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		8516408/		
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Primary Source Set #4				
AEB-BORK DATE TRIPENE	Title/Date: New-York daily tribune., January 27, 1860, Page 4, Image 4 Publisher: Greeley & McElrath	Repository: Library of Congress Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers Washington, D.C. 20540 USA http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lcc n/sn83030213/1860-01-27/ed- 1/seq-4/		
THE PERCHAS CONFLOR	Title: The pending conflict Creator(s): Woods, Oliver Evans Date Created/	Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62- 42025		
ETTERNIE I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Published: Phil., PA: Published by Oliver Evans Woods, 1863	http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2 008661653/		
JOHNNY, Fill up the Bowl! ***The Transport of the Bowl! **The Tr	Title: New Johnny, fill up the bowl! Tune- When Johnny comes marching home. Date Created/ Published: J. H.	Repository: Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/amss:@field(DOCID+@lit(cw103120))		
A Second	Johnson's card and job printing office, &c., [n. d.]			
	Title: The great American What is it? chased by Copper-heads	Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA		
	Creator: Nichols, E. W. T. Date Created/ Published: [Boston];	Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-22015 http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2		
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