

Approaches to Using Informational Sources from DocsTeach.org

The screenshot shows the DocsTeach.org interface for the activity "Looking Closely: Clara Barton". It includes the site logo, social media icons, and a "SHOW/Hide Intro" button. The main text reads: "Look closely at this photograph of Clara Barton taken over 150 years ago in the 1850s. Clara Barton was a nurse who aided soldiers in the Civil War and later founded the American Red Cross. Observe the details in the photo and think about what they tell you." Below the text is a small image of Clara Barton.

Analyzing Photographs

<https://www.docsteach.org/activities/student/looking-closely-clara-barton>

Key Features: Include questions that focus on “Meet the Document,” “Observe its Parts,” “Make Sense of It,” and “Use as Historical Evidence.”

Book Builder Suggestion: Use several pages with same source for question and response feature and digital coaches to highlight critical features in the source.

The screenshot shows the DocsTeach.org interface for the activity "Suffragist Susan B. Anthony". It includes the site logo, social media icons, and a "SHOW/Hide Intro" button. The main text reads: "Closely examine the document on the screen. After carefully analyzing the document, respond to the questions below. Click the magnifying glass to take a closer look at the document as you respond to the questions." Below the text is a small image of a document titled "A PROPOSITION UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE".

Focusing on Details

<https://www.docsteach.org/activities/student/suffragist-susan-b-anthony>

Key Features: Highlights in document direct the student’s attention to specific parts when answering questions.

Book Builder Suggestion: Use the text highlighter feature to draw the student’s attention to specific parts of the text.

The screenshot shows the DocsTeach.org interface for the activity "Comparing Civil War Recruitment Posters". It includes the site logo, social media icons, and a "SHOW/Hide Intro" button. The main text reads: "Compare and contrast the following two Civil War recruitment broadsides." Below the text is a small image of a recruitment poster titled "TO COLORED MEN! FREEDOM, Protection, Pay, and a Call to Military Duty!".

Compare and Contrast

<https://www.docsteach.org/activities/student/comparing-civil-war-recruitment-posters>

Key Features: Focus on details about who created the source and who is the intended audience to emphasize a contrast in perspectives.

Book Builder Suggestion: Use digital coaches to help highlight these features.

The screenshot shows the DocsTeach.org interface for the activity "How Effective were the Efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau?". It includes the site logo, social media icons, and a "SHOW/Hide Intro" button. The main text reads: "Examine each photograph to determine the New Deal program that this job was part of, then move the document pin to the state or region where you think the picture was taken. The first four have been done for you." Below the text is a small image of a scale with a triangle in the center, representing a continuum.

Weighing the Evidence

<https://www.docsteach.org/activities/student/how-effective-were-the-efforts-of-the-freedmens-bureau>

Key Features: Present contrasting arguments at two ends of a “scale.” Student places sources along this continuum.

Book Builder Suggestion: Create activity sheet for students’ rankings along a similar continuum.

The screenshot shows the DocsTeach.org interface for the activity "Where Was the New Deal?". It includes the site logo, social media icons, and a "SHOW/Hide Intro" button. The main text reads: "Examine each photograph to determine the New Deal program that this job was part of, then move the document pin to the state or region where you think the picture was taken. The first four have been done for you." Below the text is a small image of a map of the United States with several pins placed on it.

Mapping History

<https://www.docsteach.org/activities/student/where-was-the-new-deal#activitytop>

Key Features: Though students can use clues in the captions to locate sources, they have to properly place them on a “blank” map. Identifying patterns and a summarizing question are key to concluding this activity.

Book Builder Suggestion: Create a similar activity sheet and have digital coaches point out important details.