**Primary Sources Activity**

A primary source is a document, speech, or other sort of evidence written, created or otherwise produced during the time under study. Primary sources offer an inside view of a particular event. Examples include:

**Original Documents**

Autobiographies, diaries, e-mail, interviews, letters, minutes, news film footage, official records, photographs, raw research data, speeches.

**Creative Works**

Art, drama, films, music, novels, poetry.

**Relics or Artifacts**

Buildings, clothing, DNA, furniture, jewelry, pottery.

**Examples of Primary Sources**

* Plato's [Republic](http://0-library.nlx.com.innopac.library.unr.edu/display.cfm?&clientID=80723227&depth=2&infobase=pmplato.nfo&softpage=GetClient42&titleCategory=0&view=browse) — women in ancient Greece
* The [Declaration of Independence](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/) — U. S. history
* [African-American Poetry](http://0-collections.chadwyck.com.innopac.library.unr.edu/home/home_aap.jsp?template=basic.htx&content=frameset.htx) (1750-1900) — U. S. history & literature
* Diary of Anne Frank — experiences of Jews in World War II
* film footage of the assassination of President J. F. Kennedy
* [National Security Data Archives](http://nsarchive.chadwyck.com/) — U. S. history ~ declassified documents

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Assignment:

* Divide into 4 small groups and find a primary source document located anywhere in your textbook.
* Talk about the primary source document you discovered with your group.
* Decide what the document tells you, the time period it was written, and the point of view of the author.
* Write down the information you find and prepare it to present to the class.