

# Primary Source Collection Analysis

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**INTRODUCTION** - The Autry Museum of the American West is a museum located in Los Angeles, California. The Autry Museum's **mission** is to bring together the stories of all peoples of the American West, connecting the past with the present to inspire our shared future. Historians investigate the past. They learn about the past by looking closely at evidence called sources. During this lesson, you will be investigating sources from the Autry Museum's **collection** that are primary sources. A primary source is a source like a journal entry that was made during the time period being **analyzed**. Some primary sources, such as **autobiographies**, are made after the time period being analyzed. These sources are primary sources because they provide a **first-hand account** of the past. Read PART 1 to learn how to investigate primary sources.

**PART 1** - During this lesson, you will answer the question: *What can primary sources teach us about the past?* by doing the following:

A) Visit the Autry Museum's Primary Source Collections by clicking on [Primary Source Collections](#) or by following these steps:

- Visit [www.theautry.org/education](http://www.theautry.org/education).
- Scroll down and click on Educational Resources.
- Go to the All Resources drop-down box.
- Find and select Primary Source Collection from the drop-down box.
- Click on the blue APPLY button.

B) Scroll through the different Primary Source Collections (African American Military Regiments in the West, California Missions, Gold Rush, Women in the West, etc.)

C) Choose a Primary Source Collection to investigate by clicking on the Primary Source Collection title or image.

D) Answer the questions below about the Primary Source Collection you chose. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

Which Primary Source Collection did you choose to investigate?

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Why did you choose this Primary Source Collection to investigate?

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## Glossary

**Analyzed:** looked closely at or studied

**Autobiographies:** true stories that people write about their own lives

**Collection:** a group of items that has been collected to study or to show to people

**First-hand account:** a description of something that happened by the person who experienced it

**Mission:** a person, group of people, or organization's purpose

# Primary Source Collection Analysis

**PART 2** - After clicking on the Primary Source Collection title or image, analyze a primary source by doing the following:

- A) Scroll down and click on the Access pdf [HERE](#) link under the word Collection.
- B) Read the information under the Primary Source Collection title on the first page of the PDF.
- C) Then scroll through the different images of primary sources on the PDF.
- D) Choose a primary source to analyze on the PDF.
- E) Read the description under the image of the primary source that you chose to analyze.
- F) As you are analyzing the primary source, answer the questions in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

<b>PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONS</b>	<b>MY ANSWERS</b>
What is the <u>first</u> primary source that you chose to analyze? Write the object name.	
Why did you choose to analyze this particular primary source?	
What does this primary source look like? Describe its color, shape, size, etc.	
What do you think the primary source was used for? Write the primary source's use.	
Who made this primary source? Is the name of the primary source's maker available? If so, write the maker's name.	
Does the primary source have a title? If so, write the title.	
When was this primary source made? Is the date the primary source was made available? If so, write the date.	
Read the notes underneath the image of the primary source. Write what you learned.	
What story does this primary source tell? Describe what this primary source teaches you.	
What questions do you have about this primary source?	
Research the answers to your questions using other online sources and/or print sources. Then write what you learned.	

# Primary Source Collection Analysis

**PART 3** - Analyze another primary source by doing the following:

- A) Continue to scroll through the different images of primary sources on the same PDF that you used in PART 2.
- B) Choose another primary source to analyze on the PDF.
- C) Read the description under the image of the primary source that you chose to analyze.
- D) As you are analyzing the primary source, answer the questions in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONS	MY ANSWERS
What is the <u>second</u> primary source that you chose to analyze? Write the object name.	
Why did you choose to analyze this particular primary source?	
What does this primary source look like? Describe its color, shape, size, etc.	
What do you think the primary source was used for? Write the primary source's use.	
Who made this primary source? Is the name of the primary source's maker available? If so, write the maker's name.	
Does the primary source have a title? If so, write the title.	
When was this primary source made? Is the date the primary source was made available? If so, write the date.	
Read the notes underneath the image of the primary source. Write what you learned.	
What story does this primary source tell? Describe what this primary source teaches you.	
What questions do you have about this primary source?	
Research the answers to your questions using other online sources and/or print sources. Then write what you learned.	

# Primary Source Collection Analysis

**PART 4** - Analyze a different primary source by doing the following:

- A) Continue to scroll through the different images of primary sources on the same PDF that you used in PARTS 2 and 3.
- B) Choose a different primary source to analyze on the PDF.
- C) Read the description under the image of the primary source that you chose to analyze.
- D) As you are analyzing the primary source, answer the questions in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONS	MY ANSWERS
What is the <u>third</u> primary source that you chose to analyze? Write the object name.	
Why did you choose to analyze this particular primary source?	
What does this primary source look like? Describe its color, shape, size, etc.	
What do you think the primary source was used for? Write the primary source's use.	
Who made this primary source? Is the name of the primary source's maker available? If so, write the maker's name.	
Does the primary source have a title? If so, write the title.	
When was this primary source made? Is the date the primary source was made available? If so, write the date.	
Read the notes underneath the image of the primary source. Write what you learned.	
What story does this primary source tell? Describe what this primary source teaches you.	
What questions do you have about this primary source?	
Research the answers to your questions using other online sources and/or print sources. Then write what you learned.	

# *Primary Source Collection Analysis*

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**PART 5** - After analyzing the three primary sources that you chose to investigate, answer the questions below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

How are the three primary sources that you chose to analyze similar to each other?

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How are the three primary sources that you chose to analyze different from each other?

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Which of the three primary sources was the most helpful in teaching you about the Primary Source Collection that you chose to investigate? Explain why this primary source was the most helpful.

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How do the three primary sources that you chose to analyze connect with what you have been learning in school?

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