Maine State Museum
Primary Source Packets

INVESTIGATE MAINE’S CONNECTIONS TO SLAVERY THROUGH HISTORIC DOCUMENTS, ARTIFACTS, AND IMAGES
The Maine State Museum’s Bicentennial packets allow students to explore Maine history through local primary sources. The topics are designed for different grade levels, ranging from K-12.
Each packet includes:

- A Teacher guide with recommendations on setting up the activity

- An introduction with thorough background information for teachers and students, as well as recommended reflection questions/learning goals

- Themed sets of Maine-based primary sources (documents, artifacts, and images)

- Analysis Worksheets to guide students through working with primary sources
Analysis Worksheets

Analyze an Image

What kind of image is it?
- Painting
- Photograph
- Drawing
- Cartoon
- Map
- Other

Is the image:
- Black & White
- Color

What are 3 things you notice?
1.
2.
3.

Does the image have:
- People
  - Yes
  - No
- Things/objects
  - Yes
  - No
- Activities/action happening
  - No
  - Yes

Describe the people:

Describe the things:
- Buildings
- Animals
- Plants
- Man-made Objects

Describe them:

Describe what’s happening:

Analyze an Artifact

What colors do you see?

How does it look?
- Worn/beat up/used a lot
- Light
- Smooth
- Made to be used (utilitarian)
- Made to be seen (decorative)

What does it feel like?
- Hard
- Soft
- Thin
- Thick

What is it made of?
- Glass
- Metal
- Plastic
- Wood
- Bone
- Other

What are three words you would use to describe the artifact?
1.
2.
3.

Are there any words or names written on the artifact?
- No
- Yes

What is written on it?
Students spend time investigating each source without knowing what it is

- Practice close observation
- Develop visual literacy skills
- Create connections and make meaning
- Analyze and make inferences
- Solve “mysteries” using creativity and historical context

Bicentennial Primary Source Sets

- Frescoes of Sir. Jos. Nott
- Sugar Bowl and Tonga
- Plymouth Patent Map

Learn

- Online Lessons & Resources
- Virtual Scavenger Hunts
- At-Home Activities and Family Fun
- Blaine House and State House Tours
  - Blaine House
  - Maine State House

https://mainestatemuseum.org
Thank you!

Feel free to reach out with any questions:
kate.webber@maine.gov