Teaching with Primary Sources and the LOUISiana Digital Library

Louisiana Gumbo Lesson Resource

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Photographs for the Ages: World War II Photographs

Subject: Social Studies
Grade Level: 8, 11

Overview
Students examine photographic images of the 1940s to discover how photographers captured the story of their contemporary world.

Students consider the question: What can we learn about the people and events of the 1940-era through vintage photographs?

Approximate Duration: 1 or 2 50-minute class periods

Content Standards:
- **History: Time, Continuity, and Change**   Students develop a sense of historical time and historical perspective as they study the history of their community, state, nation, and world.

Benchmarks:
- **H-1A-M4**   analyzing historical data using primary and secondary sources;

Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs):
- **Historical Thinking Skills**
  Grade 8
    67. Analyze given source material to identify opinion, propaganda, or bias (H-1A-M4)

Interdisciplinary Connections:
- **English/Language Arts : Standard 1**   Students read, comprehend, and respond to a range of materials, using a variety of strategies for different purposes.

Educational Technology Standards:
- Determine when technology is useful and select the appropriate tool(s) and technology resources to address a variety of tasks and problems.

Objectives:
Students will
- Use reading comprehension skills and available technology to locate, select, and synthesize information from digital images to acquire and communicate knowledge about events, ideas, and issues related to history.
- Demonstrate historical perspective by participating in a class discussion of events that shaped American and Louisiana history.
- Analyze cartoons, photographs, posters, and other visual medium to identify opinion, propaganda, or bias.

Lesson Materials and Resources
   Depending on how the teacher formats the lesson, one or more of the following items may be used:
- [Observation Form](#)
- [Essay Rubric](#)
- [Oral Presentation Rubric](#)
- [Multimedia Storyboard](#)
- World War II Photographs for the Ages Note-taking Guide

Technology Tools and Materials:
   Hardware: Computers, 1 per student or set of partners (Can be executed with 1 classroom presentation computer); Internet access
   Software: Browser software
   Websites:
   LOUISiana Digital Library, **http://louisdl.louislibraries.org**
   Sample Collections
   America at War
   Camp Ruston Collection
   The American Missionary Association and the Promise of a Multicultural America: 1839-1954
   Historic Photographs of Southwest Louisiana
   Louisiana Historical Photographs Collection of the State Library
   The Louisiana Works Progress Administration (WPA) Collection

Procedure
1. View a selection of contemporary images of people, places, and events. You may wish to use the works of Louisiana photographers (for example, A. Hays Town and C.C. Lockwood). Ask students to explain the stories that are related by these images.
2. Explain that students will browse the LOUISiana Digital Library to discover how changes in photography (equipment, subjects, technology, etc) and the changing role of photographers shaped our perception of our world.
3. Divide the class into groups and distribute the World War II Photographs for the Ages Note-taking Guide.   (You may wish to narrow the scope by assigning each group one collection from the Digital Library or one photographer. You may also wish to expand the scope of this project by asking students to use the Internet to locate more information about specific types of photography and cameras used during the early 20th centuries.)
4. Demonstrate the collection search and advanced search features of the LOUISiana Digital Library.
5. Demonstrate how to access individual collections of photographs from the LOUISiana Digital Library Collection home page.   Use images in the **Charles L. Thompson Collection** to demonstrate how each collection is actually a visual essay about the photographer's contemporary world.
6. Explain the importance of image metadata in identifying photography equipment, photographers, and subject matter. Explain that Collection descriptions help students understand the subject matter and time/historical circumstances during which images were recorded.

7. Ask students to prepare a short multimedia presentation of their research. Explain that a multimedia presentation is a visual essay. Distribute copies of and discuss the Essay Rubric, Multimedia Presentation Rubric, and Multimedia Storyboard to demonstrate how presentation preparation and guidelines for each medium are similar.

8. Explain and/or demonstrate how students may copy images, save images, and/or use the My Favorites function of the LOUISiana Digital Library to prepare a PowerPoint slideshow. Please refer to the viewers and help and my favorites pages of the LOUISiana Digital Library for help and additional information

9. Provide access to computers and allow adequate time for research and collaboration.

10. Use the **Observation Form** to record anecdotal information about peer collaboration.

11. Student Presentations

12. **Debrief.** Use student presentations to discuss the role of photographers as visual historians. Ask students if they can identify examples from their research about bias in photographs or examples of photographs used to shape public perception.

13. **Culminate Visual Essay Commentary on Our Contemporary World.** Ask students to use modern photographic equipment including disposable cameras, digital cameras and recorders, and camera phones to capture images of their world. Students will use these images to create a visual essay (multimedia presentation, collage, poster, etc) about life in our contemporary society. Distribute appropriate rubrics to guide the assignment.

14. Create a classroom gallery display of student projects.

15. **Extension**. Ask students to use the Internet to locate more information about specific types of photography and cameras used during World War II.

Assessment Procedures:
    World War II Photographs for the Ages Note Taking Guide
    Appropriate Rubrics from Materials section of this lesson

Accommodations/Modifications:
Accommodations/Modifications Built Into the Lesson
• Cooperative grouping
• Small class segments
• Whole class debriefing sessions
• Pre-teach vocabulary words
• Extensions/Explorations can be modified for individual needs
• Debriefing provides systematic feedback

World War II Photographs for the Ages Note-taking Guide

Your Name _____   **Date** _____

Image Type and title *(photo, documents, artifact, map,cartoon, poster, etc)*	Images Link *Cut and paste from your browser*	Photographer	Notes	Your Thoughts