

Primary Source Photo Analysis

Use any or all parts of this worksheet to analyze different photographs. This worksheet is adapted from those available via the National Archives and Record Administration website.

Look at the photo. What do you notice first?

- Portrait Landscape Action Architectural/Buildings
 Event Family Posed Candid
 Selfie Other

Is there a caption or anything else written on the photo? Is it color or black and white?

What do you see? List the people, objects, and activities you see.

People

Objects

Activities

What is it all about?

Answer as best you can. Use the caption if there is one to help answer the questions.

Write a one sentence summary of the photo.

Who took the photo (can be a specific person or company)?

Where is it from or where was it taken?

When is it from?

What was happening at the time in history when this photo was taken?

Why was it taken? What evidence from the photo or your own knowledge tells you this?

What more can you find?

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this topic?