

HMH Social Studies

Document-Based Investigations

Teach Students to Think Critically | Grades 6–12



Promote Inquiry and Active Learning

Inquiry is at the center of learning, challenging and preparing students for college and career. That is why you will find Document-Based Investigations in **EVERY** lesson.

Document-Based Investigations

- Support active inquiry and ask students to think critically as they read.
- Encourage students to analyze primary sources like a historian
- Culminate with evidence-based writing tasks at the end of each module

Sources of Inquiry

Students focus on inquiry, critical thinking, close reading, and writing as they work with a variety of historical, visual, and video sources including:


Art	Passages from Novels
Articles	Photographs
Artifacts	Poems
Chronicles	Political Cartoons
Documents	Portraits
Letters	Quotes
Manuscripts	Speeches
Maps	Supreme Court Cases
Newspapers/Pamphlets	

Examples from *United States History*

HISTORICAL SOURCE

Chinese Miners

Chinese miners faced discrimination. They often worked claims that others had abandoned. In the photo, Anglo and Chinese miners work together in Auburn Ravine in 1852.



[Need help with visuals?](#)


Analyze Visuals

What evidence of Chinese discrimination or lesser status do you find in this photograph?

HISTORICAL SOURCE

Ben Franklin and His Son Choose Sides

When Ben Franklin's son William was a child, he helped his father experiment with lightning. But by the time William had grown and the Revolution started, the two men viewed the conflict differently. They exchanged letters on the subject. In a letter to his father, William Franklin expressed his opinion that all British laws governing the American colonies should be obeyed unless legal action was taken to repeal them. He also said it was the responsibility of executive members of government to enforce these laws. Benjamin Franklin had a very different opinion about the laws that the British Parliament made for the colonies.



"I am indeed of the opinion, that the parliament has no right to make any law whatever, binding on the colonies . . . I know your sentiments differ from mine on these subjects. You are a thorough government man, which I do not wonder at, nor do I aim at converting you. I only wish you to act uprightly and steadily."


—Benjamin Franklin
The Private Correspondence of Benjamin Franklin

Analyze Visuals

HISTORICAL SOURCE

Plantation Burial

The English artist John Antrobus painted this work in 1860. Antrobus lived in the United States for about eight years. *Plantation Burial* was part of a series of paintings he planned to create about life in rural Louisiana.



[Need help with visuals?](#)

Analyze Visuals

What seems to be the artist's attitude toward the mourners?
Provide evidence for your conclusion.



Engaging students to analyze primary sources like a historian.

Learning Builds on Investigating History



A German bombing raid on London during the Battle of Britain

Essential Question

Why did the Allies win World War II?

In this module you will learn that, during World War II, the Allied forces defeated the Axis powers, the Jewish people suffered through the Holocaust, and Europe and Japan were left devastated. As you read the module, look for political, economic, and military factors that contributed to the ability of the Allies to overcome the aggression of the Axis powers. When you are done, you may be assigned to write a short essay answering the Essential Question for this module.

Nurture Critical Thinking

Essential Questions spark curiosity, guide instruction, and ask students to apply knowledge through writing tasks.

Module 22

Essential Question—Writing

In this module, you've learned about how, during World War II, the Allied forces defeated the Axis powers, the Jewish people suffered through the Holocaust, and Europe and Japan were left devastated. Now it's your turn to demonstrate your understanding of the module content by writing an essay.


Why did the Allies win World War II?

Write an argument answering this question. Your essay should include key people, events, and turning points in World War II. Be sure to cite evidence to support your position and organize your essay into an introduction, body, and conclusion.

DOCUMENT-BASED INVESTIGATION HISTORICAL SOURCE

The London Blitz

During the aerial bombing of London beginning in September, 1940, the German goal was to terrorize the British people so that they would lose the will to fight. The London Blitz destroyed huge areas of the city and killed tens of thousands of people, but the British people refused to surrender. In this photo, a London bus is submerged in a bomb crater after a German air raid.



Need help with visuals? ✓

Analyze Sources

Need help with visuals? ✓

Analyze Sources

What aspects of total war were evidenced in the Battle of Britain?

✓ Save to myNotebook

Point-of-use skills support

Drop-down arrows offer additional support for students who struggle with analysis of primary sources.

Analyze Visuals

Visuals are information sources that deliver content mainly through images rather than words. They can be primary sources or secondary sources. Photographs, fine art, advertisements, posters, illustrations, and cartoons are all examples of visuals. Historians use visuals to learn about the past.

Use these strategies to analyze visuals.



1 Identify the subject.

Who or what does the visual show?

2 Examine the details.

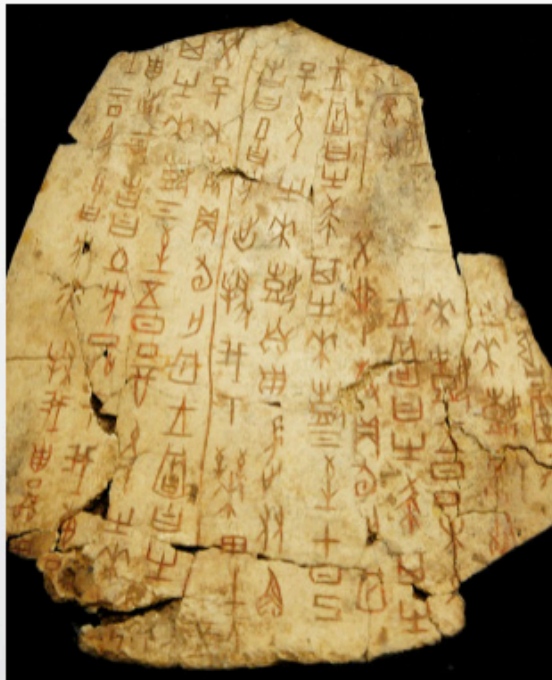
Identify the type of visual. Photographs usually record actual historical events, while fine art is created after the events have occurred or may even be fictional. Look closely at the details in the visual and think about what they show. Why were they


World Civilizations, Module 6

DOCUMENT-BASED INVESTIGATION HISTORICAL SOURCE


The Beginning of Writing

Like other early forms of writing, Chinese writing developed from pictographs—symbols that look like what they represent. Over time, the symbols became more complex and looked less like real objects. While most writing was done on bamboo paper, the writing on bone and shell that has survived were used as oracles.



Need help with visuals? 

Analyze Sources

 What do you observe about these symbols and lines of writing?

Start Typing...

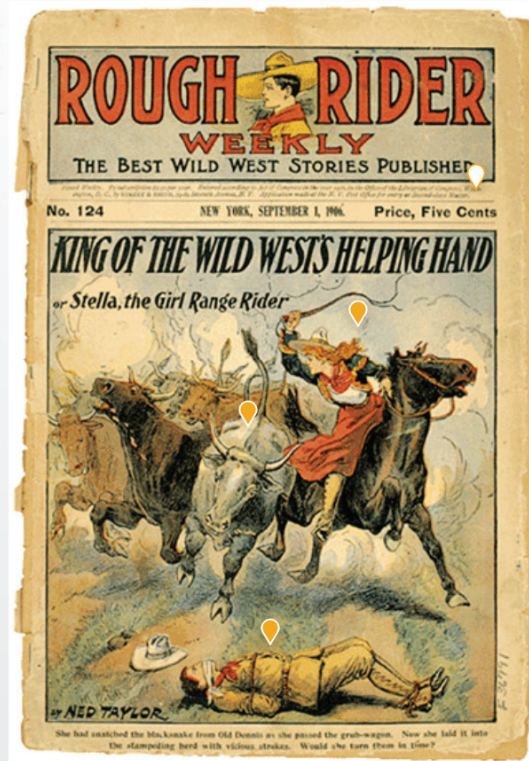
United States History, Module 11

DOCUMENT-BASED INVESTIGATION HISTORICAL SOURCE

A Wild West Dime Novel

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the dime novel was required reading for many Americans who were fascinated by the Wild West. The dime novel pictured here tells of the adventures of Stella, the girl range rider.

"Dimes" novels cost 5 or 10 cents and usually were published weekly in series. Most were short, rarely running to more than 40 pages.



Hotspots ☐

Need help with visuals?

Analyze Visuals

Based on its cover, do you think this novel more likely illustrates a myth or reality of the Wild West? Why?

Start Typing...


World History, Module 28

DOCUMENT-BASED INVESTIGATION HISTORICAL SOURCE

The Germans Stopped at Stalingrad

At Stalingrad, the Russians used the city's environment to their advantage, fighting a deadly urban war. Stalingrad's great distance from Germany also aided Russia, making it hard for the Germans to supply and reinforce troops. And the Soviet winter killed many German soldiers and ruined equipment. In this photo, Soviet troops launch an attack during the battle for Stalingrad.



Need help with visuals? 

Analyze Sources

In what way was the strategy the same for Hitler and Stalin at Stalingrad?

--


American History, Module 21

DOCUMENT-BASED INVESTIGATION HISTORICAL SOURCE

Effects of the Arms Race

As the United States and the Soviet Union rushed to produce nuclear weapons, many civilians lived in fear of a catastrophic attack. Eisenhower's policies of retaliation and brinkmanship heightened those fears. Across the country, civil defense agencies tried to prepare people for how to survive in the case of such an attack.



Need help with visuals? 

Analyze Sources



How does this poster reflect Americans' increased fears of conflict with the Soviet Union?

Start Typing...

Modules end with an **Essential Question** writing task and cumulative DBI

Revisit Essential Question—End-of-Module Writing

Students are asked to demonstrate their understanding of the module content by answering the Essential Question.

Module 22

Essential Question—Writing

In this module, you've learned about how, during World War II, the Allied forces defeated the Axis powers, the Jewish people suffered through the Holocaust, and Europe and Japan were left devastated. Now it's your turn to demonstrate your understanding of the module content by writing an essay.

Why did the Allies win World War II?

Write an argument answering this question. Your essay should include key people, events, and turning points in World War II. Be sure to cite evidence to support your position and organize your essay into an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Document-Based Investigation

Part 1: Short Answer

In this module, you have analyzed several sources. Review your answers to the questions you have already seen, and answer any questions that you haven't already completed.

Document-Based Investigation: Part 1

Students are provided the opportunity to review each Document-Based Investigation and strengthen their answers to prepare for the Performance Task in Part 2.

Document-Based Investigation

Part 2: Write a Compare and Contrast Essay

Historical Context

World War II continued and expanded the concept of total war initiated in World War I. In total war, entire national economies were directed toward the war effort. In World War II, governments' mobilization of labor, materials, and propaganda resulted in unprecedented buildups of military armament. Soldiers amassed by the millions across three continents in large-scale battles to defeat one another. Along with the military personnel who were killed, civilians were casualties of war at a rate never before seen.

Task

Each principal Allied and Axis nation experienced total war in ways that greatly impacted both personnel on the battlefield and their civilian populations. Write an essay in which you compare and contrast the ways that the total war approach defined each Allied and Axis nation during World War II.

Complete the following steps as you plan and compose your essay.

1. Review your notes and sources before you start writing.
2. Use at least four of the sources in Part 1, and develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen evidence from the documents.
3. Cite specific evidence from each of the three sources in your response.
4. Plan your essay so that it includes an introduction, several body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.
5. Organize your essay in a clear and logical way that highlights comparisons and contrasts.

3. Cite specific evidence from each of the three sources in your response.

Document-Based Investigation: Part 2

Performance Tasks ask students to analyze and draw evidence from several relevant sources.

Task

Each principal Allied and Axis nation experienced total war in ways that greatly impacted both personnel on the battlefield and their civilian populations. Write an essay in which you compare and contrast the ways that the total war approach defined each Allied and Axis nation during World War II.

Complete the following steps as you plan and compose your essay.

1. Review your notes and sources before you start writing.
2. Use at least four of the sources in Part 1, and develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen evidence from the documents.

4. Plan your essay so that it includes an introduction, several body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.

5. Organize your essay in a clear and logical way that highlights comparisons and contrasts.

HMH Social Studies



Uncover the **Connections**

To learn more and get an online preview, visit
hmhco.com/hmh-social-studies

HISTORY® and the "H" logo are trademarks of A&E Television Networks LLC. All rights reserved. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt® are registered trademarks of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. © Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. 11/22 WF1673708



Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

hmhco.com