Activity: Piecing Together the Puzzle: Using Source Materials to Understand Lives of the Fallen | Handout - Process Four

Teacher's Guide, Analyzing Primary Sources

Library of Congress

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.

Sample Question:
A few follow-up activity ideas:
- Intermediate
  - Have students compare two related primary source items and share their information with other class members.
  - Ask questions about the source: Where do you think this came from? Why do you think somebody made this? What do you think was happening when this was made? Who do you think the audience for this item was? What tool was used to create this? What do you think this item is so important? If somebody made this today, what would be different? What can you learn from examining this?

Sample Questions:
- What do you notice first? Find something small but interesting. What do you notice that you didn't expect? What do you notice that you can explain? What do you notice that you didn't earlier?

Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.

- Advanced
  - Ask students to consider how a series of primary sources support or challenge information and understanding on a particular topic. Have students refine or revise conclusions based on their study of each subsequent primary source.
  - For more tips on using primary sources, go to http://www.loc.gov/teachers

QUESTION

Ask students to identify and note details.

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OBSERVE

• Sample Questions:
  - What do you notice first? Find something small but interesting. What do you notice that you didn't expect? What do you notice that you can explain?
  - What do you notice that you didn't earlier?

• Encourage students to ask questions that lead to more observations and reflections.

REFLECT

Guide students with the sample questions as they respond to the primary source. Encourage them to go back and forth between the columns; there is no correct order.

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