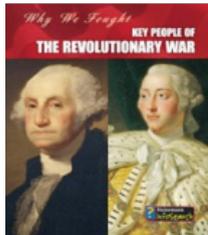


A primary source is a first-hand original account, record, or evidence made by people who witnessed or took part in a specific historical period. It can be a written document, photograph, object, poster, or artwork.

**QUICK QUIZ:** Which of these objects is a primary source from the Revolutionary War (1775-1783)?

*Hint: Look at the dates.*



Book by Patrick Catel, ©2011



Document: Declaration of Independence (1776)



Painting: Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851)

**ANSWER:** The Declaration of Independence. The book and painting are related to the Revolutionary War but were created long after the war. They are secondary sources. The Declaration of Independence was created by people who took part in the events related to the Revolutionary War.

The Museum is full of primary sources. See if you can find a primary source that is a poster, a photograph, an object, and a document. Select sources from different sections of the Museum. What can you learn about the lives of past Kansans by studying these primary sources?

### Can you find a primary source that is a poster?

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Study the poster for a few minutes. Look closely at the details and read the text.

Describe how it looks. (Text, images, symbols, colors)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Who do you think was the intended audience for the poster? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What did the creator of the poster want the audience to do or feel? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think this poster would have been successful in achieving the creator's goal? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about this time period and its people?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What other questions about this poster do you have?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Can you find a primary source that is a photograph?

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Study the photograph for a few minutes. List the people, objects, and activities you observe in the photograph.

People	Objects	Activities

Based on these observations, what can you conclude about the subject of the photograph? \_\_\_\_\_

What other questions do you have about this photograph or the time period? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Can you find a primary source that is an object?

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Study the object for a few minutes. Does it remind you of any objects we use today? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the object. (Size, materials, colors, moving parts, labels, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who might have used it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For what might it have been used? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where do you think it was used? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When do you think it was made or used? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think it was made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you infer about the life and times of the people who made and used it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What other questions do you have about the object?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Can you find a primary source that is a written document?

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Study the document for a few minutes.

What kind of document is it? (Newspaper, letter, land deed, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the appearance of the document. (Handwritten or printed, signed, on letterhead, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who created the document? For whom was the document created? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the document was created? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you tell about life in the time the document was created? \_\_\_\_\_

What other questions do you have about this document or its author? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### After you leave...

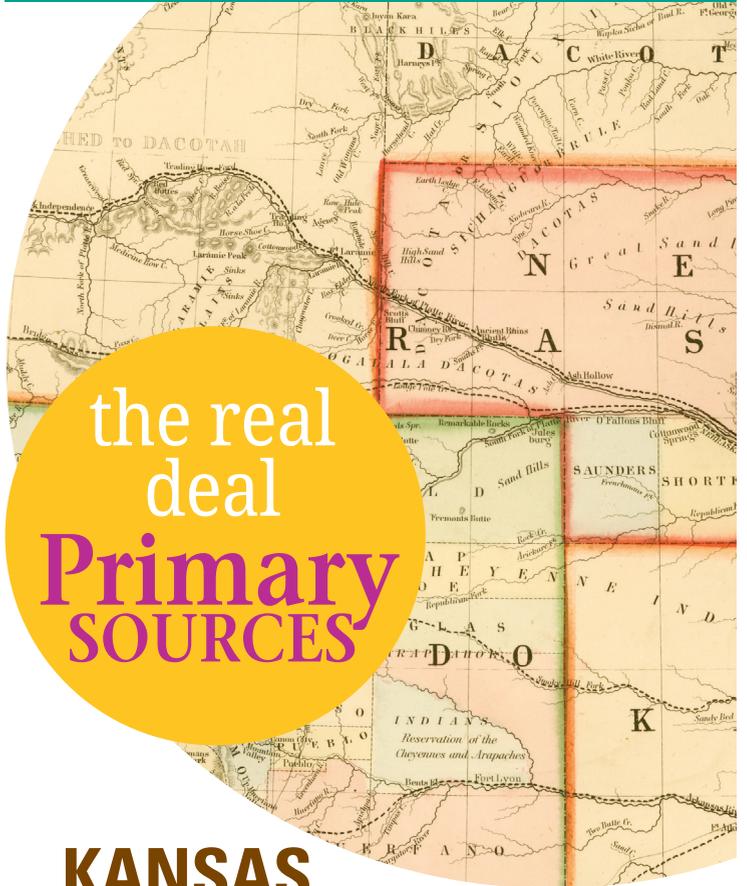
Find a primary source in your home. Study your primary source and answer the same questions for it as you did for a similar item in the Museum.

#### Expand your knowledge:

- Ask your family for more information about the primary source.
- Look for more information online or at a library or museum.



## Activity Guide



**KANSAS  
MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY**

REAL STORIES. REAL FUN.