VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM CURRICULAR MATERIALS

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration





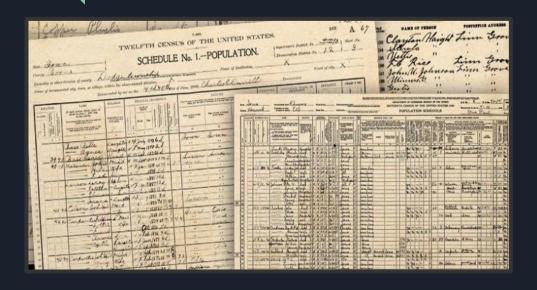


Unlocking the Mysteries: Investigating the Past with Primary Sources

What is a primary source?

- Primary sources are firsthand accounts or artifacts from the past.
- Primary sources are created during event or time period they are describing.
- Different types of primary sources include: documents, letters, posters, films, artifacts, photographs, speeches, autobiographies, maps, and many more.
- Using primary sources helps us understand history in a more authentic way.

Census Records



Census records are official government surveys that collect information about people.

They provide names, ages, and occupations of individuals during specific time periods.

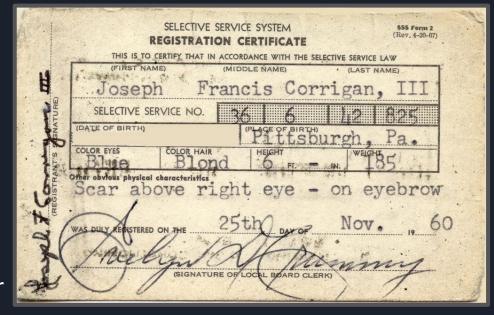
Census records offer insights into population trends and how it can change over time in a specific area.

It is important to understand what is happening politically and socially during the time the census record is taken in order to get the full picture.

Draft Registration Cards

- Draft cards were used to keep record and information of people entering the armed forces.
- Contain details like birthdate, address, and physical descriptions of the person. It is important to note that not all of the people registered for the draft actually served in the military. And not everyone who served in the military registered for

the draft.



Newspapers



Newspaper articles are written accounts published in newspapers.

They include many details about historical events as they were written during the time of the event.

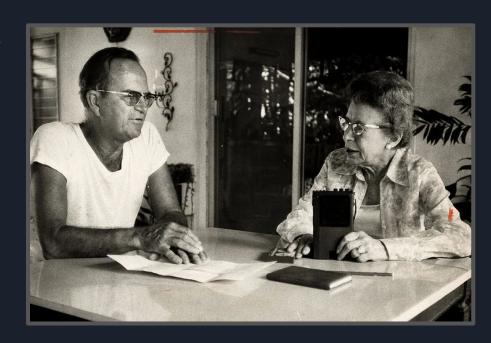
Newspaper articles do not give the whole story, it is important to use newspapers alongside other types of primary sources to get the full picture.

Oral History

 Oral history involves collecting stories and memories through interviews.

It captures personal experiences, emotions, and perspectives.

 Oral history gives voices to underrepresented individuals in other sources.



Let's practice!

Which of the following is an example of a primary source that can provide information about the past?

- A. A textbook written by a historian.
- B. A biography written about a famous person.
- C. A newspaper article from the time period being studied.
- D. A documentary film about a historical event.

LOCATION.				NAME	RELATION.		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.								
IN CITIES.		dwelling-	, in the	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.				DATE OF BIRTH.		My.	narried,	married.	BIAND	hildren	
Street.	Rouse Number.	Number of dy bouse, in the o	Number of family, in the order of visitation.	Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. LECLEDG every person living on June 1, 1900, ORIT children born since June 2, 1900.	Relationship of each person to the bead of the family.	Color or race.	Sex.	Month.	Year.	Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married widowed, or directed,	Number of years	Mother of how children.	Number of these children living.	
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What year was John born?

A. 1888

B. 1890

C. 1893

D. 1895

What age was Eddie when the census was taken?

A. 14

B. 13

C. 11

D. 9

Where was Henry Fox born?

What was his job?

According to this document, who is an important person in Henry's life? How do you know?

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16	, 1897)
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Dame -	
[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]	***************************************
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