



Primary Source Documents History

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This pathfinder will be useful in finding primary source documents.

Key Resources at a Glance:

- **The National Archives** (www.archives.gov): The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%-3% are so important for legal or historical reasons that they are kept by us forever. Not all of these records are digitized for online availability so when searching the *Archival Research Catalog* make sure you are searching for "Digital Copies" under "Search Options"
- **The National Archives Experience** (www.digitalvaults.org): This site is a more interactive version of The National Archives. If you look under the "Educators and Students" at the very bottom, you will find a section dedicated to National History Day. To enter the site from the "Home Page" click "Continue". There will be several "buttons" at the bottom of the page. **Collect** acts as a tray for you to pull your items into. **Search** will provide you with a keyword search box at the bottom of the page. **Pathways** provides quizzes designed like scavenger hunts for you to solve. **Create** allows you to design pathways, posters or movies from your items. These can be saved and/or printed from the site.
- **The Library of Congress: American Memory** (<http://memory.loc.gov>): American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience. It is a digital record of American history and creativity. These materials, from the collections of the Library of Congress and other institutions, chronicle historical events, people, places, and ideas that continue to shape America, serving the public as a resource for education and lifelong learning.
- **World Book Web: World Book Advanced** (www.iowaaceonline.org): User name: northpolk2, password: aea11. Provides a section on primary source documents. Use "Advanced Search" to search only primary source documents.