



Straight from the Source: **Close Reading Exercises for Elementary Social Studies**

As teachers strive to build students' skills in understanding and analyzing informational texts – a key feature of the 2018 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework – the need to introduce historical sources to elementary students has become more urgent. Yet the dizzying array of sources available makes selecting and adapting the best ones to build students' skills and knowledge a time-consuming prospect.

Straight from the Source offers an answer. As a collection of 30 exercises in the close reading of informational texts, it provides teachers with high-quality materials and guidance to significantly advance students' capacities.

THE EXERCISES ARE DESIGNED TO OFFER

- Rich, engaging texts that can anchor a unit of elementary social studies study
- Original texts and adapted texts suitable for specific grade levels (as measured by quantitative text-complexity scales and qualitative assessment)
- A variety of source types (newspapers, interviews, artifacts, maps, memoirs, legal codes, infographics, biographies and more)
- Diverse voices from the U.S. and world that reflect the increasing diversity of the student population
- Alignment with Common Core Reading and Writing Standards
- Models of the process of reading closely and asking text-dependent questions
- Development of students' historical thinking skills by prompting
 - Chronological thinking
 - Assessment of the provenance and credibility of sources
 - Appreciation of perspective and historical empathy
 - Inquiry and research
 - Integration of visual and quantitative data
 - Analysis of causation and multiple causation
 - Comparison of competing narratives and perspectives

Teaching with nonfiction sources – especially historical ones – can be challenging. Recognizing the demanding nature of this work, each exercise offers several supports.

EVERY *STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE* EXERCISE INCLUDES THESE ELEMENTS:

- Scholar-reviewed Rationale and Context Essay for the source
- Massachusetts Curriculum Framework and Common Core Connections
- Text-Complexity Measures
- Guidance for Teaching a Close Reading of the Source
From pre-reading to post-reading, this section models questions and approaches to the source in five stages, including suggestions for how to teach with relevant “extension sources” and make the most from juxtaposing sources
- Suggested Writing Prompts
- Key Vocabulary – Tier 2 and Tier 3 words and definitions
- Additional Resources – a selective, interactive bibliography
- Original Source Text (excerpted, with citation for full text)
- Grade-Level-Edited Text (handout for students)

To teach rich texts with confidence requires that teachers themselves engage in close reading, inquiry, and discussion of the sources they teach.

Primary Source recommends a corresponding to workshop to prepare teachers to successfully implement Straight from the Source exercises in your school or district.

	Non-partner	Partner
Straight from the Source	\$1500	\$1000
Straight from the Source Workshop	\$2500	\$1500
Total Package	\$4000	\$2500

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