What’s New from the Library of Congress?

Cheryl Lederle
cled@loc.gov
About This Program

The Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition
Letters, maps and secret codes shed light on the treaty that transformed North America
Learn more
New Primary Source Sets

The Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Jump to: Teacher's Guide

Treaty between the United States of America and the French Republic, April 30, 1803

An Act, To enable the President of the United States to take possession of the territories ceded by France to the United States, by the Treaty concluded at Paris

Thomas Jefferson's draft of a constitutional amendment incorporating the Louisiana Territory into the United States, 1803

TEACHERS HOME

The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the Library's vast digital collections in their teaching.

ANALYSIS TOOL & GUIDE

To help your students analyze these primary sources, get a graphic organizer.

Library of Congress » Classroom Materials » The Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition...
New Primary Source Sets

Primary Source Set

Transportation

Jump to: Teacher's Guide

Man pushing hot dog cart, 1950s
Horse-drawn ice wagon, 1890s
Dog sled team, 1920
New Primary Source Sets

PRIMARY SOURCE SET

LGBTQ Activism and Contributions

Jump to: Teacher's Guide

- The Second Largest Minority: Reminder Day picket in Philadelphia
- Gay and Proud: Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in New York City
- Frank Kameny Interview, Veterans History Project
New Primary Source Sets

The Civil Rights Movement

Jump to: Teacher's Guide

PRIMARY SOURCE SET

"Supreme Court Kills Segregation": Newspaper coverage of Brown v. Board of Education

Four leaders of the NAACP, including Thurgood Marshall

Poster for an appearance by Rosa Parks, 1956
New Primary Source Sets

PRIMARY SOURCE SET

Inventions and Innovations

jump to: Teacher's Guide

TEACHERS HOME

The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the Library’s vast digital collections in their teaching.

ANALYSIS TOOL & GUIDE

To help your students analyze these primary sources, get a graphic organizer and guides.

Thomas Edison’s laboratory, 1880

Electric Light. Illustration of the Lamp, 1879

How to Succeed as an Inventor, by Thomas A. Edison, 1898
Abraham Lincoln's Presidency

Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860 and again in 1864. His first inauguration, on March 4, 1861, featured an unprecedented amount of security around the president-elect, spurred by the approaching onset of the U.S. Civil War.

Lincoln had campaigned against Stephen Douglas, mostly in a series of debates which addressed popular sovereignty and slavery. Guided by the phrase in the Declaration of Independence that “All men are created equal,” Lincoln spoke against slavery. While Lincoln opposed slavery, he also was well aware of Constitutional boundaries to what actions the president could take.

The war brought the issue of emancipation to the forefront, but Lincoln postponed executive action until he felt he had clear authority. Congress passed legislation in July 1862 and after months of working with his cabinet, on January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation declared “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people thereof shall then be in rebellion.”
The 20th century saw a wave of organized activism to secure civil rights and freedoms for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people. LGBTQ individuals had long been subject to public hostility and legal prosecution, and were widely denied protection against discrimination in employment, housing, military service, and private and public services. In the years after World War II, activists across the nation formed organizations, including the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis, to campaign for civil rights for gay men and lesbians. Early movement leaders included Frank Kameny, who spent decades fighting against the federal government’s anti-LGBTQ employment policies, and LILLI Vincenz, who published newsletters and columns, picketed the White House, and made films that documented key moments in the movement.

In June 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in New York City’s Greenwich Village. The bar’s patrons, including transgender and gender non-conforming people, lesbians, and gay men, fought back, sparking several days of protests. A year later, to mark the anniversary of the uprising, thousands of people took to the streets for the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade, which is widely
The Civil Rights Movement

In the middle of the 20th century, a nationwide movement for equal rights for African Americans and for an end to racial segregation and exclusion arose across the United States. This movement took many forms, and its participants used a wide range of means to make their demands felt, including sit-ins, boycotts, protest marches, freedom rides, and lobbying government officials for legislative action. They faced opposition on many fronts and fell victim to bombings and beatings, arrest and assassination. By the end of the 1960s, the civil rights movement had brought about dramatic changes in the law and in public practice, and had secured legal protection of rights and freedoms for African Americans that would shape American life for decades to come.

A few key moments include:

- **Brown v. Board of Education** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund, led by Thurgood Marshall, spent decades fighting against racial segregation in education. This long campaign culminated when the U.S. Supreme Court heard the case of Brown v. Board of Education, which gathered together five separate cases related to school segregation with Marshall...
Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, used nonviolent resistance to overcome racial injustice and end segregation laws, and became the most visible leader of the 20th century civil rights movement.

In 1955, as the young pastor of a Montgomery, Alabama church, King was elected the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and asked to lead a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. The boycott began when the civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger, and the protest continued via nonviolent means, including car pools and eventually legal action. The 381 day boycott ended about a year later, when the U.S. Supreme Court ordered Montgomery to integrate the bus system.

In 1957, King was elected president of the newly formed Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which continues to advocate for nonviolent resistance to racial injustices.
Join In: Voluntary Association in America
A new major exhibition explores America's history as a nation of joiners
New and Updated Collections

About this Collection

This collection contains cultural heritage materials gathered during the World Digital Library (WDL) project, including thousands of items contributed by partner organizations worldwide as well as content from Library of Congress collections. The original World
New and Updated Collections

COLLECTION
A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates

About this Collection  Collection Items  Articles and Essays

Featured Content

MacKay’s Journal  Elliot’s Debates  Journals of the Confederate States of America  Farrand’s Records

About this Collection

Beginning with the Continental Congress in 1774, America’s national legislative body has recorded the proceedings of its meetings. These records include the debates of the Continental Congress, the Constitutional Convention, and the United States Congress. They provide a rich documentary history of the construction of the nation and the development of the federal government and its role in the national life. These documents record American history in the words of those who built our government.

Plus:

• U.S. Code
• U.S. Reports (Supreme Court Opinions)
• U.S. Statutes at Large
• U.S. Treaties and other International Agreements
New and Updated Collections

COLLECTION
Veterans History Project Collection

About this Collection

The Veterans History Project (VHP) of the Library of Congress is a national effort to collect and preserve the first-hand narratives of U.S. military veterans and their families, so that future generations may hear directly from our veterans about their service. Since 2000, VHP has preserved thousands of individual veterans' collections, which offer users an unparalleled archive of primary source material.

In addition to updated audio- and video-recorded oral histories, our VHP offers maps, genealogy, and collections of original letters, diaries, and photographs of military service, including those from the Civil War and Spanish-American War.

Visit the VHP website for more information on how you can participate in the project.
The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service.
New and Updated Collections

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Library of Congress » Digital Collections » Open Access Books » About this Collection

COLLECTION
Open Access Books

About this Collection Collection Items

Featured Content

Sound souvenirs: audio technologies, memory and cultural ...

Curious encounters: voyaging, collecting, and making knowledge ...

Žmogus ir gamta: lietuvių liaudies sakmės, pasakėčios, ...

The worlds of Langston Hughes: modernism and translation in the...

Stranger things happen

About this Collection

This is a growing collection of contemporary open access e-books. The books in this collection cover a wide range of subjects, including history, music, poetry, technology, and works of fiction. Most of the books in this collection were published in English, but there are some titles in other languages. All of the books in this collection were published under
New and Updated Collections

Collection
Transportation and Communication

About this Collection
Collection Items

Featured Content

Carta da viação ferrea do Brasil
Communist China railroads and selected roads, June 1961.
Carte figurative et approximative des quantités de céréales qui ...
Transportation corridors into Iraq.
Panama.

About this Collection
These maps document the development and status of transportation and communication systems on the national, state, and local level. Transportation maps can depict canal and river systems, cycling routes, railway lines and systems, roads and road networks, and traffic patterns. Communication maps illustrate the location and distribution of telegraph routes, telephone systems and radio coverage.
New and Updated Collections
New and Updated Collections

## Results: Digitized Newspapers

272 newspapers filtered on **African American** are available for viewing on this site.

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Free to Use and Reuse sets

Varied themes
Visual items
New sets added monthly
Archive of past sets
Lincoln Assassination: Topics in Chronling America

On April 14, 1865, five days after the Confederate surrender, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. This guide provides access to material related to the "Lincoln Assassination" in the Chronling America digital collection of Historic Newspapers.

Introduction

Search Strategies & Selected Articles

About Chronling America
Chronling America is a searchable digital collection of historic newspaper pages from 1777-1963 sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

Also, see the Directory of U.S. Newspapers in American Libraries, a searchable index to newspapers published in the United States since 1800, which helps researchers identify what titles exist for a specific place and time, and how to access them.

Timeline

April 14, 1865
Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington DC while attending performance of the comedy, "Our American Cousin," Secretary of State William Henry Seward is also injured at the same time at his home near the White House.

April 21, 1865
Lincoln's body is embalmed in Washington in a funeral train. The 1,700-mile trip back to Illinois is the only train that carried the President to be embalmed in 1865. Along the route, the railroad stopped in Philadelphia, New York City, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Chicago.

May 4, 1865
Abraham Lincoln is laid to rest in a tomb at Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery.

May 10, 1865
An army military commission is convened to try Mrs. Mary Surratt, David Herold, Lewis Payne, Dr. Edman Spangler, Michael O'Laughlin, Samuel Arnold, and Dr. Samuel Mudd for their roles in the assassination of President Lincoln. Herold, Payne, and Mudd will eventually be executed while the remaining defendants are sentenced to imprisonment.

July 7, 1865
Four co-conspirators, Lewis Payne, George Atzerodt, David Herold, and Mary Surratt were executed on the public platform at Port Sunlight for their part in the assassination conspiracy.
Highlights of what’s new

- New **Primary Source Sets**: Louisiana Purchase/Lewis and Clark, Inventions and Innovations, Civil Rights, Transportation, Women in Science and Technology
- Updates to the **U.S. History Primary Source Timeline**
- **Transportation and Communication Maps**
- Updated **Veterans History Project** page
- **World Digital Library**
- **Open Access Books**
- **Free to Use**
- Updates to **Congress.gov**: new search options and new material
- **Chronicling America** New additions, including 1923-1963; including 272 African American Newspapers;
- **Research Guides** including Chronicling America topics pages
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