

Searching American Memory

GOAL

Time Required

OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- Search for primary sources by media type.
- Locate specific primary source text, video, maps, photos, prints, and audio.
- Conduct effective searches within collections using keywords.
- Demonstrate a search using sentences and paragraphs of text.

Standards

MATERIALS

Materials/Resources Using Primary Sources in the Classroom

- ☐ Computer with Internet access
- ☐ Projector and screen

PREPARATION

- Ensure that you can access the Library of Congress website at <http://www.loc.gov/>.
- Test all of the links below.

PROCEDURE

Search for civil war by original format:

1. Go to the Library of Congress website: <http://www.loc.gov/>.
2. Click on the *American Memory* tab on the LOC home page and click the *GO* button: <http://memory.loc.gov/>.
3. Select *Browse* at the top of the American Memory home page.
4. The "Browse Collections Containing:" section provides quick search links to collections containing:
 - a. Maps
 - i. Click on the *Maps* link (under Browse Collections Containing).
 - ii. Type "civil war" in the "Search selected collections" text box and click *SEARCH*. Examine the search results when they appear.
 - iii. Think of a question that comes to mind after viewing these sources.
 - b. Manuscripts
 - i. Click *Browse* to return to browse page. Click on the *Manuscripts* link (under "Browse Collections Containing"). A list of all collections containing manuscripts appears.
 - ii. Type "President Abraham Lincoln" in the "Search

Searching American Memory

- selected collections” text box and click *SEARCH*.
Examine the search results when they appear.
- iii. Think of a question that comes to mind after viewing these sources.
- c. Motion Pictures
- i. Click *Browse* to return to browse page. Click on the *Motion Pictures* link (under “Browse Collections Containing”).
 - ii. Type *civil war* in the “Search selected collections” text box and click *SEARCH*. Examine the search results when they appear.
 - iii. Think of a question that comes to mind after viewing these sources.
- d. Sheet Music, Song Sheets
- i. Click *Browse* to return to browse page. Click on the *Sheet Music, Song Sheets* link (under “Browse Collections Containing”).
 - ii. Type “civil war” in the Search selected collections text box and click *SEARCH*. Examine the search results when they appear.
 - iii. Think of a question that comes to mind after viewing these sources.
- e. Photos and Prints
- i. Click *Browse* to return to browse page. Click on the *Photos, Prints* link (under “Browse Collections Containing”).
 - ii. Type “civil war military life” in the “Search selected collections” text box and click *SEARCH*. Examine the search results when they appear.
 - iii. Think of a question that comes to mind after viewing these sources.
- f. Sound Recordings
- i. Click *Browse* to return to browse page. Click on the *Sound Recordings* link (under “Browse Collections Containing”).
 - ii. Type “slave narratives” in the Search selected collections text box and click *SEARCH*. Examine the search results when they appear.
 - iii. Think of a question that comes to mind after
-

Searching American Memory

viewing and listening to these sources.

g. Books, Other Printed Texts

- i. Click *Browse* to return to browse page. Click on the *Books, Other Printed Texts* link (under "Browse Collections Containing").
- ii. Type "civil war history" in the "Search selected collections" text box and click *SEARCH*. Examine the search results when they appear.
- iii. Think of a question that comes to mind after viewing these sources.

Search Collections by Keywords

1. Go to the following URL to locate the Collection "African American Perspectives" <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html>
2. Click on *Search by Keywords*.
3. Find the "Search Descriptive Information" text box, type "suffrage" into the text box and click *SEARCH*.
 - a. What types and how many items do you get?
4. Click your web browser's *Back* button to take you back to the Search page.
5. Above the text box, click on *Full Text* link.
6. In the Full Text box, type "suffrage" and click *SEARCH*.
 - a. What types and how many items do you get?

Searching using Chunks of Text

1. Go to the following URL to locate the collection "Abraham Lincoln Papers" <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html>
2. Click *Search by Keyword*.
3. Type this text in the "Search Descriptive Information and/or Full Text box": "Four score and seven years ago." Click *SEARCH*.
4. Click your web browser's *Back* button until you are back at the Search page.
5. Type the following text into the "Search Full Text box": "be compensated for the losses by acts of the United States, including the loss of slaves." Click *SEARCH*.
6. Alternately use the "match any of these words feature" and the "match this exact phrase" feature.
 - a. What types and how many items do you get with these respective tools?

Teaching with Primary Sources • Professional Development

Searching American Memory

ASSESSMENT Have participants share questions they would like to investigate and how they might use this activity in the classroom.