Primary sources of information are ones that have been created, written, or spoken within the time frame being investigated. Primary sources can provide first-hand information about an event, person, or place. Using primary documents or sources requires the ability to read carefully, analyze information, and make connections.

### Examples of Primary Sources: Print, Electronic, and Media

- Letters
- Diaries or Blogs
- Maps
- Government Records
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Statistical Reports
- Artifacts and Tools
- Advertisements
- Court Records
- Autobiographies
- Media Clips
- Voice Recordings
- Podcasts
- Music Recordings
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Paintings
- Photographs
- Sculptures
- Engravings
- Sketches
- Films or Videos

### Ask yourself some important questions:

- Who made or created the item?
- For whom was it written/made?
- Is it fact or opinion? How do you know?
- Do you trust the information? Why?
- What do you learn about your topic?
- Does this information surprise you or change your mind about your topic?
- Does this item create more questions about your research project?