

## **Primary Sources**

## What are Primary Sources?

- Primary sources are documents or artifacts created during a historical event or by someone who personally witnessed a historical event.
- Primary sources can take many forms, including:
  - First-hand accounts—oral histories, memoirs, diaries, letters, interviews, etc.
  - Media accounts—newspaper or television report
  - Political or legal documents—Congressional Records, Presidential Papers, Court rulings, Speeches, census or tax records
  - Artistic works—Photographs, paintings, sculptures, films
  - Artifacts-clothing, buildings, pottery
- All primary sources, except first-hand accounts, must have been created at the time of the historical event that you are researching.
- First-hand accounts must be an explanation of the historical event that you're researching by someone who personally witnessed the event.



## Where Can I find Primary Sources?

There are many places to find primary sources online, like websites for archives and museums. Here are some places where you can find primary sources:

<u>Library of Congress</u> <u>National Archives and Records</u> <u>Administration</u> <u>History Matters</u> <u>National Security Archive</u> <u>FBI Archive</u> <u>Foreign Relations of the United States</u> <u>Tenement Museum</u> Herbert Hoover Library Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Harry S. Truman Library Dwight D. Eisenhower Library John F. Kennedy Library Lyndon B. Johnson Library Richard Nixon Library Gerald Ford Library