



Here's a chart of some primary sources that might be appropriate for students at different grade levels. (Of course, you know your students better than we do. This is just a guide.)

Kindergarten  
and Grade 1

**Artifacts**—old toys, household utensils, clothes, as well as natural objects such as birds' nests

**Photographs**—images of children, including those in other cultures and societies, and of nature

On this level, you are essentially developing skills of observation, inference, and visual literacy. It is not important that the primary sources you use be historical, although that can be fun and interesting.

Grades 2–3

**Artifacts**—old tools and sports equipment and more sophisticated natural objects, such as fossils

**Photographs**—older images, still of children, adding more historical images

**Texts**—simple “personal voice” texts, such as diary entries

On this level, you will be using text material that does not depend on advanced reading skills. In fact, in order to introduce some interesting texts, you may need to help students read.

Grades 4–6

**Artifacts**—less familiar objects, such as navigation instruments and other specialized tools

**Photographs**—historical images connected to specific events or eras being studied

**Texts**—oral histories and interviews, some official and scientific records, such as census reports and weather data

On this level, historical content becomes more important. You will probably need to use photographs of artifacts from earlier periods, rather than relying on physical objects you have access to. You can also use multiple sources, such as a photograph and an oral history on the same topic.