TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES—MTSU
FIRST GRADE RESOURCE GUIDE

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

The Library of Congress Web site offers a variety of sources that align with the Tennessee Social Studies standards for fourth grade. Many of the items found within this resource guide can be used directly with students while others will provide background information to aid teachers as they engage students with primary sources. When introducing primary sources to young students, begin with asking them “What do you see?” This is a great way to begin building observation skills and helping students to draw connections between their own experiences and source material used in class. For additional analysis guides and worksheets visit MTSU’s Teaching with Primary Sources webpage.

Culture, 1.01-1.03:
- Family Customs Past and Present: Exploring Cultural Rituals (Lesson Plan—Will need to be adapted for first grade students)
- Teacher’s Guide: Analyzing Primary Sources
- America’s Story: Explore the States
- The Great American Potluck (Activity)

Economics, 1.04-1.09:
- All aboard for the Limited [c.1905]
- Trains and Travel: Then and Now (Lesson Plan)
- Dog sled arriving from Iditarod [1912]
- The Iditarod: The Last Great Race (Lesson Plan)

Geography, 1.10-1.14:
- Preliminary Agriculture Map of Tennessee [1896]
- Local History: Mapping my Spot (Lesson Plan)
- The Three Grand Divisions (Tennessee Blue Book Lesson Plan)
- United States [2000]
- Map Analysis and Using Cardinal Directions with Historic Maps (Lesson Plan)
Government and Civils, 1.15-1.21:
- Citizenship (Tennessee Blue Book Lesson Plan)
- Laws (Tennessee Blue Book Lesson Plan)
- Voting (Tennessee Blue Book Lesson Plan)
- Roles of Elected Leaders (Tennessee Blue Book Lesson Plan)
- Presidential Papers at the Library of Congress

Statue of Liberty, New York Harbor [c.1905]
- Statue of Liberty

The Star Spangled Banner [c.1913]
- The Star Spangled Banner (Lesson Plan)

Tennessee and American Symbols (Tennessee Blue Book Lesson Plan)
- Tennessee State Symbols (Tennessee Encyclopedia)
- America’s Story: Explore the States—Tennessee

Mockingbird [N.D.]

Pledge of allegiance to the flag, 8th Division [c.1899]

The Liberty Bell, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania [c.1980-2006]
History, 1.22-1.26:

Columbus taking possession of the new country [1893]
- Columbus Day—Hispanic Exploration in America (Teacher’s Guide and Primary Source Set)
- Columbus Day—Exploration and Explorers
- Columbus Day—Hispanic Americans
- Columbus Day

Christopher Columbus [c.1908]

The First Thanksgiving 1621 [c.1932]
- Thanksgiving—(Teacher’s Guide and Primary Source Set)
- Thanksgiving (Timeline)
- Topics in Chronicling America—Thanksgiving
Martin Luther King, Jr. [1964]
- Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. (Lesson Plan)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Blog)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Exploring Photographs of Civil Rights Movement Leaders (Blog)

White House [1913]
- Happy Birthday, Mr. Lincoln! (Lesson Plan)
- President’s Day - Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln (Primary Source Set)

American Flag [1923]
- Independence Day—Favorites for the Fourth from the Library’s Primary Sources (Blog)

Flags are prominent on the downtown square on Veterans’ Day in Pontotoc, Mississippi [2017]

Memorial Day, 1923 [1923]
- Memorial Day—Remembering on Honored Dead: Memorial Day Traditions (Blog)
- Memorial Day—Stars, Stripes, and Symbols of America: Comparing Our Flag, Past and Present (Lesson Plan)
- Today in History—Memorial Day

Visit Discover Tennessee History for more Tennessee related resources and tools for educators.