TEACHER'S GUIDE
Analyzing Photographs & Prints

Observe
Ask students to identify and note details.
Sample Questions:
Describe what you see. • What do you notice first? • What people and objects are shown? • How are they arranged? • What is the physical setting? • What, if any, words do you see? • What other details can you see?

Reflect
Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.
Why do you think this image was made? • What’s happening in the image? • When do you think it was made? • Who do you think was the audience for this image? • What tools were used to create this? • What can you learn from examining this image? • If someone made this today, what would be different? • What would be the same?

Question
Invite students to ask questions that lead to more observations and reflections.
What do you wonder about... who? • what? • when? • where? • why? • how?

Further Investigation
Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.
Sample Question: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

A few follow-up activity ideas:
Beginning
Write a caption for the image.

Intermediate
Select an image. Predict what will happen one minute after the scene shown in the image. One hour after? Explain the reasoning behind your predictions.

Advanced
Have students expand or alter textbook or other printed explanations of history based on images they study.

For more tips on using primary sources, go to http://www.loc.gov/teachers