

# Sixth Grade Social Studies Primary Documents and Supporting Texts

[Teacher's Guide](#): Helpful strategies from the Library of Congress to help students analyze primary resources.

[Document Analysis Worksheets](#): Analysis worksheets were designed and developed by the Education Staff of the National Archives and Records Administration. You may find these worksheets useful as you introduce students to various documents.

- Primary Source Analysis Tool, a.k.a. Analysis Tool for Students (for all kinds of primary sources)
  - [Interactive, Web-based format](#)
  - [Writable, printable PDF format](#)

## [Human Origins](#) in Africa through the Neolithic Age

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** Digital collections of early African art and tools, including cave paintings and spears [\[rock art\]](#)

African World Heritage Sites <http://www.africanworldheritagesites.org/>

What it means to be human by the Smithsonian Institute

<http://humanorigins.si.edu/>

## [Mesopotamia](#)

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** [excerpts](#) from the [Epic of Gilgamesh](#); digital collections of the ancient [Mesopotamian plow](#), [wheel](#), sailboat, [cuneiform tablets](#), and the stylus

## [Ancient Egypt](#)

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** Digital collections of Egyptian Pyramids, including the [Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza](#); digital collections of the [Pyramid Texts on the wall of the burial chamber of the Pyramid of Teti](#), [Saqqara](#); digital collections of documents written on papyri

## [Ancient India](#)

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** excerpts from the epic Hindu literature [Bhagavad Gita](#); excerpts from [Ramayana](#); excerpts from [Mahabharata](#)

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** excerpts from [Hindu Search for Divine Reality](#); excerpts from The [Upanishads](#); excerpts from the [Buddha's Two Lessons](#)

## [Ancient China](#)

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** excerpts from [The Mandate of Heaven: The Classic of History](#); excerpts from [Confucius' The Analects](#), excerpts from [The Lament of the Nomad Flute by Lady Wenji](#)

## [Ancient Israel](#)

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** excerpts from the Tanach, Hebrew Bible, the [Torah](#), and the Dead Sea Scrolls

## [Ancient Greece](#)

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** excerpts from Homer's [Iliad](#) and the [Odyssey](#); excerpts from [Pericles' Funeral Oration](#); excerpts from

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[Alexander by Plutarch](#); excerpts from [Aesop's Fables](#) (or the Aesopica); excerpts from [Aristotle's The Athenian Constitution](#); excerpts from [The Battle of Marathon](#); excerpts from [Everyday Life in Ancient Greece](#) (4th Century BC)

### **Ancient Rome**

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:** excerpts from Roman Literature, including [Ovid's Metamorphoses](#), excerpts from the [Dead Sea Scrolls](#), excerpts from [The Essenes' Manual of Discipline](#), excerpts from [Plutarch's The Assassination of Julius Caesar](#), (44 BC), excerpts from [Plutarch's writings on Spartacus](#) and [Seneca's descriptions of gladiators](#); [excerpts from the New Testament](#)

Items to view: art sculptures depicting [Romulus and Remus](#), [Ancient bust of Julius Caesar](#), discovered by French archaeologist divers scouring the bottom of the Rhône in the southern town of Arles, which Caesar founded in 46 B.C., digital collections of authentic ancient Roman [Art](#) and [Architecture](#), including: the [Colosseum](#), [arches](#), [arenas](#), [aqueducts](#), [baths](#), and [bridges](#)