

Reading a photograph



Tour Activity Sheet: Middle-High School

Photographs are valuable primary resources which can reveal information about the people, places and events of the past. Using photographs is a way to bring history to life pictorially. Choose a photograph from the exhibition and answer the following questions. These questions will help you dissect and analyze the photograph. Use another piece of paper if necessary.

Write the name of the photo here:

Something to keep in mind as you complete this sheet:

When using photographs as documentary evidence, it is important to remember that photographs can be staged or altered. Also, the photographer may be shooting scenes to represent a particular point of view. When using photographs for research, don't draw conclusions from just one print. Further sources must be utilized, such as historical records, other photos, or books.

What is happening in this picture? _____

What objects in the picture can you identify?

With which general time period are those objects associated? What would be the same or different if the photograph were taken today?

Is there anything in the photograph that you cannot identify?

Are there people included? How are they dressed? What are they doing?

Do you think that the people in the photograph are related? If so, how? What clues suggest this? _____

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EXPLORE
THROUGH
THE ART
DOOR



JAMES A.
MICHENER
ART
MUSEUM

What do the facial expressions or body language suggest?

Where do you think the photograph was taken? _____

Are there structures in the photo? What are they used for?

What distinguishing characteristics of buildings or environment give you clues to the location?

Why do you think the photographer shot this picture?

What do you think the artist is trying to tell you?

How does this work compare/contrast with other works by this photographer in the exhibit?

The National Standards in the Visual Arts addressed in this activity are: **Content Standard 2:** Using knowledge of structures and functions; **Content Standard 3:** Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas; **Content Standard 5:** Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others; The Pennsylvania Arts and Humanities Standards addressed in this activity are: **9.1** Production, Performance and Exhibition; **9.2** Historical and Cultural Contexts; **9.3** Critical Response;