

# Historica Canada Education Portal

## Primary Source Pyramid

### *3D Pyramid: 5 Steps to Analyze Primary Sources*

**THE 5WS:** Question the source. Who created it? When and where was it created? What is the source about? Why was the source created?

**CONTEXT:** Situate the source in space and time, placing it in the wider picture of history. What else was happening at the time?

**EXPLORING:** Examine the details of the source. What is it about? What words, images or symbols are used? What was its purpose?

**REACHING CONCLUSIONS:** Use context, evidence and observations to develop conclusions. What can the source reveal?

**FINDING PROOF:** Compare your conclusions with other primary and secondary sources to corroborate your findings. Do other sources confirm or challenge your conclusions?