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# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY RESOURCES FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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# DocsTeach



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**DOCS**Teach  
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**Engage Students**  
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[www.docsteach.org](http://www.docsteach.org)

# DocsTeach NHD Page



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Get Ready for NHD  
Resources for the 2023 National History Day Theme "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas"

[www.docsteach.org/topics/nhd](http://www.docsteach.org/topics/nhd)

# Document Analysis Worksheets



### Analyze a Written Document

**Meet the document.**

Type (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech	<input type="checkbox"/> Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> Telegram	<input type="checkbox"/> Court document
<input type="checkbox"/> Chart	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement	<input type="checkbox"/> Press Release	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum
<input type="checkbox"/> Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Identification document	<input type="checkbox"/> Presidential document	
<input type="checkbox"/> Congressional document	<input type="checkbox"/> Other			

Describe it as if you were explaining to someone who can't see it.  
Think about: Is it hand-written or typed? Is it all by the same person? Are there stamps or other marks? What else do you see on it?

---

**Observe its parts.**

Who wrote it?  
Who read/received it?  
When is it from?  
Where is it from?

---


**Try to make sense of it.**

What is it talking about?  
Write one sentence summarizing this document.  
Why did the author write it?  
Quote evidence from the document that tells you this.  
What was happening at the time in history this document was created?

---

**Use it as historical evidence.**

What did you find out from this document that you might not learn anywhere else?  
What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?



Materials provided by the National Archives and Records Administration are in the public domain.

### Analyze a Photograph

**Meet the photo.**

Quickly scan the photo. What do you notice first?

Type of photo (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Portrait	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial/Satellite	<input type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Architectural
<input type="checkbox"/> Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Panoramic	<input type="checkbox"/> Posed	<input type="checkbox"/> Candid
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary	<input type="checkbox"/> Selfie	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Is there a caption?  yes  no

---

**Observe its parts.**

List the people, objects and activities you see.

PEOPLE	OBJECTS	ACTIVITIES

Write one sentence summarizing this photo.

---


**Try to make sense of it.**

Answer as best you can. The caption, if available, may help.  
Who took this photo?  
Where is it from?  
When is it from?  
What was happening at the time in history this photo was taken?  
Why was it taken? List evidence from the photo or your knowledge about the photographer that led you to your conclusion.

---

**Use it as historical evidence.**

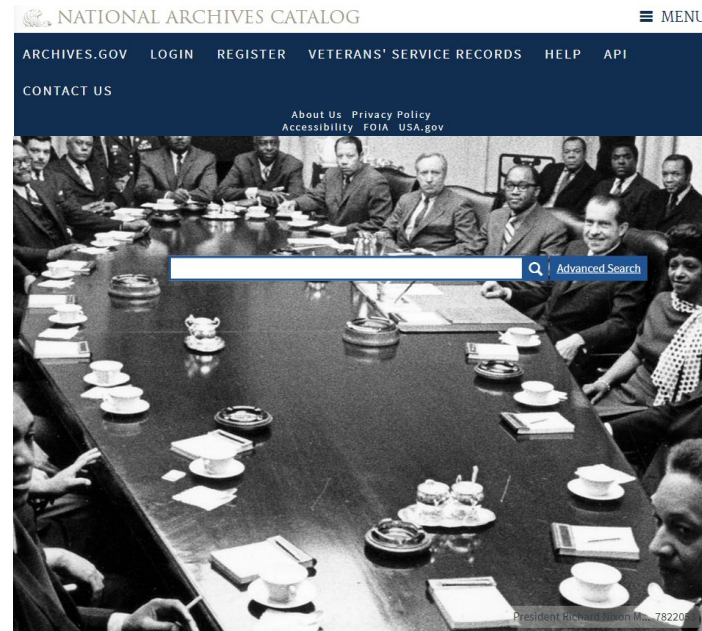
What did you find out from this photo that you might not learn anywhere else?  
What other documents, photos, or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?



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[www.docsteach.org/resources/document-analysis](http://www.docsteach.org/resources/document-analysis)

# National Archives Catalog



[catalog.archives.gov](https://catalog.archives.gov)

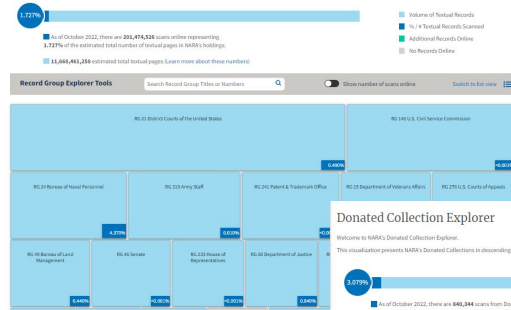
# Finding Aids: Record Group, Presidential Library, and Donated Collection Explorers



## Record Group Explorer

Welcome to NARA's Record Group Explorer. Permanent federal records held by NARA are organized into numbered Record Groups comprising the records of a major government entity, usually a bureau or an independent agency.

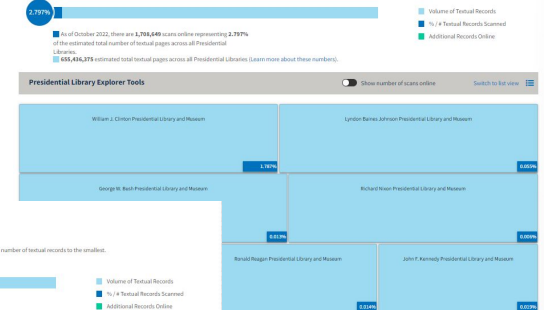
This visualization presents NARA's Record Groups in descending order from the Record Group with the largest number of textual records to the smallest.



## Presidential Library Explorer

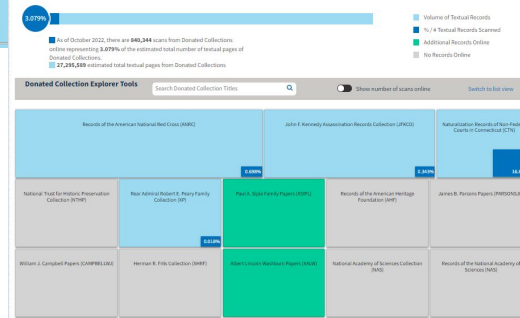
Welcome to NARA's Presidential Library Explorer. Research results from presidential administrations are held by NARA at their respective Presidential Libraries.

This visualization presents the holdings of the Presidential Libraries in descending order from the Library with the largest number of textual records to the smallest.



## Donated Collection Explorer

Welcome to NARA's Donated Collection Explorer. This visualization presents NARA's Donated Collections in descending order from the Donated Collection with the largest number of textual records to the smallest.



[www.archives.gov/findingaid/record-group-explorer](https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/record-group-explorer)  
[www.archives.gov/findingaid/presidential-library-explorer](https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/presidential-library-explorer)  
[www.archives.gov/findingaid/donated-collection-explorer](https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/donated-collection-explorer)

# Milestone Documents



**Milestone Documents**

Home > Milestone Documents

Milestone Documents

Complete List of Documents

Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820)

Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

The Development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)

The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930)

The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)


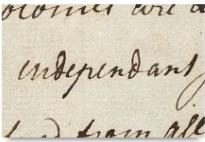
Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)

## Milestone Documents

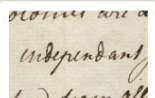
The primary source documents on this page highlight pivotal moments in the course of American history or government. They are some of the most-viewed and sought-out documents in the holdings of the National Archives.

**June 7, 1776**  
**Lee Resolution**

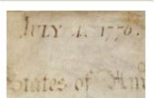
On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, introduced this resolution in the Second Continental Congress proposing independence for the American colonies. [Learn more.](#)




### Revolution and the New Nation




Lee Resolution (1776)



Declaration of Independence (1776)



Articles of Confederation (1777)



Treaty of Alliance with France (1778)

[www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/list](http://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/list)

# Special Topics Pages



**National Archives News**  
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**National Archives News**  
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**Special Topics Pages**

**Emancipation Proclamation**  
Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation, it captured the hearts of Americans, transforming the character of the Civil War.

**Holocaust Remembrance Day**  
The National Archives holds and provides access to millions of records created or received by the U.S. Government during and after World War II that document Nazi war crimes, wartime refugee issues, and activities and investigations of U.S. Government agencies.

**African American History**  
The National Archives holds a wealth of material documenting the African American experience, and highlights these resources online, in programs, and through traditional and social media.

**Washington's Birthday**  
On the third Monday in February, we honor our first President, George Washington, whose birthday is February 22. We also traditionally honor President Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is February 12.

**Women's History**  
The National Archives celebrates Women's History Month, recognizing the great contributions that women have made to our nation. Learn about the history of women in the United States by exploring their stories through letters, photographs, film, and other primary sources.

**Irish American Heritage Month**  
In March, the National Archives celebrates the contributions of Irish Americans in our nation's history during Irish American Heritage Month.

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OVER 185,000 SEARCHABLE DOCUMENTS | October 2022: 4750 new Jay and Jefferson documents

Enter search terms

*John Adams* 

AUTHOR	RECIPIENT	PERIOD
<input type="text"/> Sort: Frequency / Alphabetical Washington, George (31,854) Jefferson, Thomas (20,699) Adams, John (10,123) Madison, James (8,635) Hamilton, Alexander (7,859) Franklin, Benjamin (4,918) Adams, John Quincy (3,613) Jay, John (1,772) Adams, Abigail (1,237) Monroe, James (993) Show: Top 10 / Top 50	<input type="text"/> Sort: Frequency / Alphabetical Jefferson, Thomas (27,482) Washington, George (22,908) Madison, James (19,640) Franklin, Benjamin (9,482) Adams, John (9,010) Hamilton, Alexander (6,827) Jay, John (1,613) Adams, Abigail (1,550) Adams, John Quincy (1,145) Lee, Arthur (952) Show: Top 10 / Top 50	Colonial 1706–1775 (16,199) Revolutionary War 1775–1783 (48,784) Confederation Period 1783–1789 (17,885) Washington Presidency 1789–1797 (27,494) Adams Presidency 1797–1801 (13,808) Jefferson Presidency 1801–1809 (30,304) Madison Presidency 1809–1817 (15,504) post-Madison Presidency 1817–1836 (15,388)

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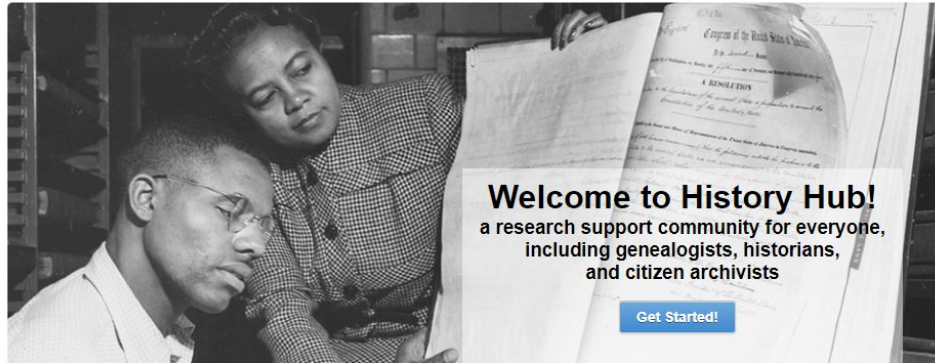
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# Questions?

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