



“A Picture’s Worth a Thousand Words”
Here’s a Picture – Now Write a Thousand Words

Historical Photographs are wonderful sources of information for the historian. As **primary** sources of information, they represent something that is real, something that was created at the time of the event, and something that was created for a reason. They represent values, beliefs and culture, and in turn they can influence values and beliefs. When you are using photographs in your historical research, you must become an active decoder as you interpret its message.

<p>Describe – take note of essential/factual info</p>	<p>Title Photographer When and where was the photo takes Describe subject matter clearly Record as many facts as you can Elements of design – colour, line shape, composition, value, texture – how are these used</p>
<p>Analyze – what decisions were made when this photo was taken</p>	<p>What can you learn from the clues in the photo What draws your eye Look closely at less significant details What are the people wearing How old are they What is their relationship What does their facial expressions and body language suggest What is going on in the background Are there any signs, posters, buildings or landmarks Time of day Overall mood</p>
<p>Interpret – use info from your description and analysis to draw conclusions</p>	<p>What is really happening in this photo What do you think the photographer is trying to say Why was this picture taken and why was it taken in this way What is left out Effect of time period – is the meaning of the photo different now as compared to when it was taken What was going on in the world at that time</p>
<p>Evaluate – what do you think about the work</p>	<p>Make a judgment on the value, significance and importance of the photo Is this photo useful in your research What does it add to your knowledge of the subject</p>

"Decoding Photographs." *ARCHIVED*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Nov. 2013.
<<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/education/008-3080-e.html>>.



Earthrise at Christmas

Thirty-five years ago this Christmas, a turbulent world looked to the heavens for a unique view of our home planet. This photo of "Earthrise" over the lunar horizon was taken by the Apollo 8 crew in December 1968, showing Earth for the first time as it appears from deep space.

Astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and William Anders had become the first humans to leave Earth orbit, entering lunar orbit on Christmas Eve. In a historic live broadcast that night, the crew took turns reading from the Book of Genesis, closing with a holiday wish from Commander Borman: "We close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you -- all of you on the good Earth."

Dunbar, Brian. *NASA*. NASA, 31 Dec. 2003. Web. 29 Nov. 2013.

<http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_102.html>.

Describe

- Title – Earthrise
- Photographed by – Apollo 8 crew
- Taken on December 24, 1968 as Apollo 8 orbited the moon for the first time
- The Earth is seen rising above the barren landscape of the moon
- Image is in colour
- Beautiful combination of the grey moon, a very black sky and a brilliant blue earth

Analyze

- Looking at the Earth in a way it have never been viewed before
- The beautiful blue Earth, compared to the lifeless grey and black, draws the eye
- No people
- The background is so expansive, the Earth looks so small
- Overall mood – striking, powerful (I am bringing my own bias in here – I remember the moment this picture appeared)

Interpret

- What is really happening here – the Earth is being seen for the first time from a distance
- Makes the point that the Earth is an oasis in a gulf of blackness
- The astronauts reported that they looked out the window and were stunned by this image of the Earth. They scrambled to get a camera as they felt right away the significance of what they were seeing for the first time.
- 1968 was a dark year! Vietnam war was raging, in April Martin Luther King was assassinated and in June Robert Kennedy was assassinated.
- Earthrise represented hope

Evaluate

- The photo was enormously significant – it changed how we view the Earth profoundly
- “Later that evening, the crew did a live Christmas Eve television broadcast, and up to a billion people around the world tuned in and saw the Earth as they never had before. Days later, when the Apollo 8 capsule splashed down, television reporter David Brinkley said, “the human race, without many victories lately, had one today.” After the mission, Commander Frank Borman received a telegraph from a stranger that simply read, “Thank you Apollo 8. You saved 1968.””

"Drew Dellinger - Planetize the Movement." *Christmas 1968 and the Photograph That Changed the World*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Nov. 2013. <<http://drewdellinger.org/pages/blog/138/christmas-1968-and-the-photograph-that-changed-the-world>>.

Your Task...

12 photographs have been selected for you to interpret.

Together with your group, **Describe, Analyze, Interpret** and **Evaluate** the photo using the template below. You may need to do some research to complete the template.

Once your evaluation is complete, write about the photo and indicate what it has taught you about the era you are studying.

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