

# Finding Primary Sources

1. What is a primary source?
  - a. It is a document or artifact that dates to the time period of your topic. They are typically first hand accounts of your topic.
    - i. Examples:
      1. Journals
      2. Letters
      3. Diaries
      4. Pictures
      5. Paintings
      6. Religious texts
      7. Poems
      8. Direct Quotations
      9. Etc.
  - b. For your project you will need to find at least 3 primary sources. They can't be only pictures. You need at least one written primary source document.
  - c. Primary source documents are not summaries of an actual document or artifact. It is the document or artifact itself.
  
2. Where can I find primary source documents?
  - a. Start by searching for religious texts about your topic.
    - i. Oftentimes just by searching for the text such as the Analects of Confucius you will find a PDF or online version of the actual document that you can use.
  - b. National Archives
    - i. The National Archives has hundreds of documents available online to the public.
  - c. DocsTeach
    - i. <https://www.docsteach.org/documents>
  - d. Fordham University
    - i. [https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbookfull.as](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbookfull.asp)  
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- ii. Here is a link to a page containing some Ancient Indian Primary source documents within the Fordham University Site
  - 1. <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/india/indiasbook.asp>
- e. The Avalon Project
  - i. <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/>
- f. Life Photo Archive via Google
  - i. <http://images.google.com/hosted/life>
- g. Silk Road Primary Sources
  - i. <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/texts.html>
- h. Asia for Educators
  - i. [http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/main\\_pop/ps/ps\\_china.htm](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/main_pop/ps/ps_china.htm)
- i. Christine Lui-Perkins
  - i. <https://christineluiperkins.com/primary-documents/>
  - ii. This gives a list of websites and books for primary sources about China
- j. Le Moyne Library Database
  - i. This has links to websites with primary source documents available to you.
  - ii. <http://resources.library.lemoyne.edu/c.php?g=679052&p=4787483>