

Data Retrieval Chart: Historical Photographs*

educated guesses are encouraged!

Question the Source

<p>What is the photograph's date, title, & creator?</p>	<p>1865, <i>Man seated beneath rock formation at the Upper Yosemite Fall</i>, and Carleton Watkins. The title reveals the location "Upper Yosemite Fall" which is in the Yosemite Valley, California.</p>
<p>What type of person might have created this photograph, and for what purpose?</p>	<p>Carleton Watkins was a well-known photographer in the 19th century. He focused on landscapes, especially in the Yosemite Valley of California. He made geological surveys and presenting public gallery shows. Watkins had a profound influence on the start of what we now call environmentalism, or the conservation movement.</p>
<p>Was it random or posed, amateur or professional, private or published?</p>	<p>It seems to be posed, with the man looking off to the distance.</p>

Observe the Context

<p>Describe what you see in the photograph. <i>(be specific and attentive to detail)</i></p>	<p>The tripod may be a type of rudimentary stove that allows twine to elevate a Dutch oven above a fire. Or the tripod could be base of a mammoth-plate camera, the type of camera often used for making landscape photographs at that time</p>
<p>Explain what is happening in the photograph. <i>(use your specific details as clues)</i></p>	<p>The Yosemite Valley was the world's first federally protected land, the first political victory of the new environmental movement. In 1864, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln provided federal protection for the Yosemite.</p>
<p>In about one sentence, state the photograph's overall message.</p>	<p>The first international conference related to the environment was held in Stockholm (in 1972) and semi-regular meetings have been held since: for example, Vienna in 1985, Rio in 1992, and Kyoto in 1997. While the conferences tend to address many topics (i.e., preserve wildlife diversity, oceans and marine life), a reoccurring theme is sustainable development: development that produces a high quality of life now without sacrificing a high quality of life for future generations.</p> <p>Urbanization and industrialization also profoundly changed the environment (i.e., deforestation, air and soil pollution, water run-off, etc.) motivating many concerned citizens to push for the conservation and preservation of nature.</p>

Corroborate the Evidence

<p>How does this photograph compare with other evidence?</p>	<p>This photograph explores international law as it concerns the environment, other photographs may explore outer space, conduct of war, or national sovereignty. Other information may challenge the notion that nations should sacrifice some national autonomy, or sovereignty, for the common interests of the international community.</p>
<p>Why might other evidence (messages & data) agree or disagree with this photograph?</p>	<p>At the subsequent conventions mentioned (Paris, Rio, Kyoto, etc.) what agreements or requirements have nations added to international law related to the environment? How have nations' policy-makers weighed decisions that concern international law, especially if the decision had potential to conflict with their state's national interests?</p>
<p>What else do you need or want to know about this photograph?</p>	

* adapted from a synthesis of the Persistent Issues in History's "Document Analysis Worksheet" and the Library of Congress's "Teacher's Guides and Analysis Tools" and Wineburg, S (1991) Historical problem solving: A study of cognitive processes used in the evaluation of documentary and pictorial evidence. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 83(1) 73-87.