

## Data Retrieval Chart: Historical Photographs\*

*educated guesses are encouraged!*

<b>Question the Source</b>	
<p>What is the photograph's date, title, &amp; creator?</p> <p>What type of person might have created this photograph, and for what purpose?</p> <p>Was it random or posed, amateur or professional, private or published?</p>	<p>2016. Farm scene including a bright-red barn, three silos (one vintage, two modern), and quite modern wind turbines in Hardin County, Iowa. Carol Highsmith. The photograph is very recent and displays a few features of modern farming juxtaposed with much older features of farming. The farm is nearly in the very center of Iowa in the Midwestern United States... Carol Highsmith is an American professional photographer and author who has devoted her career to creating a permanent record of the United States. She took over 100,000 photographs of all 50 states, the District of Washington, and Puerto Rico and donated her entire collection to the Library of Congress. She wrote more than 50 coffee-table books and was recognized with many artistic awards... Nearly everything in the photograph is on permanent display and therefore, "posed" in a sense. Still, Highsmith made several decisions about what to include in the viewfinder and what to exclude. The corn at the bottom of the photograph and much of the sky at the top could have been omitted from the viewfinder</p>
<b>Observe the Context</b>	
<p>Describe what you see in the photograph. <i>(be specific and attentive to detail)</i></p> <p>Explain what is happening in the photograph. <i>(use your specific details as clues)</i></p> <p>In about one sentence, state the photograph's overall message.</p>	<p>This landowner seems to be participating in sustainable development, a term defined in 1987 by the United Nations (the Brundtland Report) as "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." What are some ways a nation can practice sustainable development? A few years later, in 1992, the United Nations held a conference in Rio de Janeiro and issued the "Rio Declaration" signed by 175 nations. The declaration is the foundational document for sustainable development and has underpinned literally hundreds of treaties, resolutions, and agreements. The second principle of the declaration coheres with the compelling question at the center of this activity: nations have sovereignty over their domestic affairs and nations have a responsibility to the international community. The balance between a nation's sovereignty and its concern for international law is a dynamic that many nations are discussing, especially as it concerns potential economic impact. In 2015, the United Nations developed 17 "sustainable development goals," and this farm illustrates Goal #7, to Promote Clean Energy (i.e., renewable energy sources: wind, solar, hydroelectric). Also, in 2015, the Paris Agreement was a treaty and international conference where 196 nations pledged to "contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases and support sustainable development." [7] "Sustainable development has become a... paradigm that should, as commonly accepted, underpin most, if not all, human action(s). It pervades the environmental, social, political, economic, and cultural discourses from the local through to the 'global' level by both the public and private sectors.</p>
<b>Corroborate the Evidence</b>	
<p>How does this photograph compare with other evidence?</p> <p>Why might other evidence (messages &amp; data) agree or disagree with this photograph?</p> <p>What else do you need or want to know about this photograph?</p>	<p>Much of the information gathered from this photograph coheres with some of the text from the actionable elements of the Rio Declaration. This photograph explores international law as it concerns "sustainable development," other photographs may explore conduct of war, national sovereignty, outer space, or the environment.... To what degree was international law followed after 1992 and the Rio Declaration's concentration on sustainable development? What subsequent conventions (i.e., Kyoto, Paris) have been met and what requirements have they added to international law? What should policy-makers do when international concern (law) conflicts with their state's national interests?</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.