

-History from Buildings Activity and Primary Source Set-

Second Grade | SS.2.1.1

Essential Question

How can we learn history from a building?

Background Knowledge

Historic buildings can be found in towns all across the country and world. This activity and primary source set explores examples of historic buildings in the Louisville, Colorado area as a way of learning history. Historical buildings can be studied like historical artifacts. They can share stories about past owners, historic trends, environmental considerations, societal developments, and much more. Some of these stories may not be obvious upon first looking at a historic building. This activity and primary source set will help students tease out these stories using contextual clues.

Students should first watch [“Railroad Depot now Louisville Preschool.”](#) This video provides a local example of a historic building that was repurposed but still shares stories of the past.

Supporting Questions

1) Why were buildings repurposed in the past?
2) What kinds of stories can a story share?
3) How can buildings help connect people in the present to people in the past?

Activities

This resource packet includes Lesson Ideas to help extend lessons and further student understanding.

Primary Source Analysis



[Louisville Railroad Depot](#), 1910-1914

- 1) According to the “Railroad Depot now Louisville Preschool” video, why did the people of Louisville move and repurpose this building?
 - a. How did this building change to fit a new need?
 - b. Can you think of any buildings near where you live that could be repurposed? What would that look like?



[Inside the Louisville Railroad Depot office](#), 1920

- 1) Can you imagine how this building could be used as a preschool?
 - a. What do you think they saved or changed to make this building into a preschool?

Group Analysis

In groups as small as two, have a teacher read the following passage out loud and then have students discuss the questions within their group. If this is to be achieved during distance learning, students can write or type their responses or discuss this in a breakout room.



Louisville Preschool, present day

- 1) How has the building changed from its original form?
- 2) How does this building remind us of the past?
- 3) Why do communities value historic buildings?
- 4) Why is it a good idea to have reminders of the past in our communities?

Terms

Built environment: noun - Man-made structures, features, and facilities viewed collectively as an environment in which people live and work.

Train depot: noun - A terminal or building where trains load or unload passengers (people) or goods.

Historic preservation: noun - Historic preservation is the practice of protecting and preserving sites, structures or districts which reflect elements of local or national cultural, social, economic, political, archaeological or architectural history. Preservation has many diverse purposes and rewards, including the strengthening of local economies, stabilization of property values, the fostering of civic beauty and community pride, and the appreciation of local and national history. Historic preservation as a public purpose that advances the education and welfare of citizens, while providing economic and aesthetic benefits as well.

Renovation: To restore to a former or better state, by cleaning, repairing, or rebuilding.

Relocation: To move to a new location.

Primary source: noun - A primary source provides a first-hand account of an event or time period and are considered to be authoritative. They represent original thinking, reports on discoveries or events, or they can share new information. Often these sources are created at the time the events occurred.

-primary source examples-

- diaries, correspondence, ships' logs

- original documents e.g. birth certificates, trial transcripts
- biographies, autobiographies, manuscripts
- interviews, speeches, oral histories
- case law, legislation, regulations, constitutions
- government documents, statistical data, research reports
- a journal article reporting NEW research or findings
- creative art works, literature
- newspaper advertisements and reportage and editorial/opinion pieces

Secondary source: noun - Secondary sources offer an analysis, interpretation or a restatement of primary sources. They often attempt to describe or explain primary sources.

-secondary source examples-

- journal articles that comment on or analyze research
- textbooks
- dictionaries and encyclopedias
- books that interpret
- political commentary
- biographies
- dissertations
- newspaper editorial/opinion pieces