
Reading Primary Sources: The Eight Western Oregon Treaties¹

Consider the following questions as you read through the primary source material for this lesson.

First impressions

- What are your first impressions of the document?
- What kind of document is it? How do you know?

Looking more closely

- Read through the document carefully. Make a list of any unfamiliar words or phrases.
- Is there a date on the document? If so, what is it?
- Is there a location indicated? What is it?
- For whom was the document written or created? How do you know?
- What is the purpose of the document? What made you think this?

Thinking further

- What do you think the speakers thought was the most important information to convey? Why?
- How would you describe the speakers' tone?
- Can you tell the point of view of the speakers?
- What is the relationship between the speakers and the audience? How can you tell?

¹ Adapted from the Smithsonian Institute: <https://historyexplorer.si.edu/sites/default/files/PrimarySources.pdf>