



# Virtual Valentine Resources

## History at Home Student Lesson Plans

### Playing in the Past Photo Detective Activity

#### Grade – K-1

**Overview:** Students will be photograph detectives - analyzing primary source images of Richmond kids playing to discover what children did for fun in the past and compare to their favorite activities in the present.

#### Essential Skills:

- Compare and contrast
- Demonstrate skills for historical thinking

#### Virginia SOLs Alignment:

K.1, 1.1, VS.1, VUS.1

#### Materials

- “Playing in the Past” Images PowerPoint or PDF
- Virtual Valentine Photo Examination Worksheet PDF
- Pen or pencil



## Vocabulary:

- Primary Source - A **primary** historical **source** is any piece of information that was created by someone who witnessed first-hand. It can be a letter, a document, a photograph, a journal entry, a piece of art, a recording or a video.

## Program Outline: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Start the Conversation
2. Be a photograph detective
3. Explore further

### 1. Start the Conversation

These are open ended questions; the answers are there to help guide the conversation.

**Discuss what a primary source is with your student? What are some examples of primary sources?**

- A **primary** historical **source** is any piece of information that was created by someone who witnessed first-hand. It can be a letter, a document, a photograph, a journal entry, a piece of art, a recording or a video.

**Imagine you are a history investigator. Take a look around your house or your room, do you have any primary sources? What in your home could tell kids in the future about your life?**

- Photos or videos taken with a cellphone, family pictures, journals or diaries, kids artwork are all primary sources!

### 2. Be a photograph detective!

Print out the Virtual Valentine Photo Examination Worksheet PDF and use it to guide your conversations as you look through all the of the photos of Richmond children playing in the past.

Have students look at the images in the “Playing in the Past” Images PowerPoint or PDF, imagining that they are detectives, try to determine:

- When the photo was taken
- Where the photo was taken
- Why the photo was taken
- Who the photo was taken of

And then have them look deeper, ask:

- What is going on in this photo?
- What other things do you notice?
- What do you think will happen next?

Have fun with this conversation! It is okay for your student to guess based on what they see in the photo. They can even create imaginative stories about what might have happened; they are still developing critical thinking skills.

Compare the games played in the photo with your student's favorite activities today. Are there any similarities? What are the differences?

### **3. Take it further**

- With younger students: Pull out pictures from magazines, newspapers or even mailers. Have your student use the same detective skills to try to figure out what is going on in these published news stories.
- With older students: Using the accession number in the image list (located on the last page of the PowerPoint or PDF), search for the image on the Valentine Archives page: <https://thevalentine.org/collections/database-search/>
- Click the accession number to learn more details about the photograph you just analyzed!