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Grade Level: 5

Primary Source Citation: Abraham Lincoln's Inaugural Bible, 1861; The Holy Bible, Oxford: 1853, Rare Book & Special Collections Division, Library of Congress. Accessed at American Treasures of the Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt040.html>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine photographs of Lincoln's Bible located at the above links while answering questions below in order.

Level 1: Description

- 1 Describe what the Bible looks like. How big is it? What is on its cover? When was it published?
- 2 What was the Bible used for in 1861?
- 3 Who donated the book to the Library of Congress?

Level 2: Interpretation

- 1 Why would it be appropriate to use gloves when handling the object in the picture?
- 2 What does the seal on the last page of the Bible certify?
- 3 What elements prove that this is a primary source?

Level 3: Analysis

- 1 Why do you think Barack Obama wants to use the Bible to take his oath as President?
- 2 What is the significance or what does it represent for him to use it for Americans?
- 3 How would you compare the ideas or feelings of the citizens during the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama?