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**Grade level:** 9

**Primary Source Citation:** Photographs from *Image and Imagination: Encounters with the Photography of Dorothea Lange* edited by Ben Clarke.

“Migrant Mother,” Nipomo, California, 1936. Library of Congress. Taken for the Farm Security Administration. [www.freedomvoices.org/migrant.htm](http://www.freedomvoices.org/migrant.htm).

"Slept in a bed all my life long, till now--sleeping on the ground," near Redding California, May 1935. Library of Congress, courtesy of the Bancroft Library, U.C. Berkeley. Taken for the Farm Security Administration. [www.freedomvoices.org/1langepx/lang9474.htm](http://www.freedomvoices.org/1langepx/lang9474.htm).

“Camp of single men by roadside,” Nipoma, CA, Jan. 1935. Library of Congress, courtesy of the Bancroft Library, U.C. Berkeley. Taken for the Farm Security Administration [www.freedomvoices.org/1langepx/lang8062.htm](http://www.freedomvoices.org/1langepx/lang8062.htm).

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the images located at the above links while answering the questions below in order. These questions will prepare students to think critically when observing primary source documents, particularly photographs.

### **Level 1: Description**

1. What details do you see in the photos?
2. What are the children doing in their photo?
3. What is the gentleman doing in his photo?

### **Level 2: Interpretation**

1. Why does the mother look so sad even though she has three children?
2. Why is the older lady just sitting there with her possessions in the open?
3. How does the gentleman use his possessions in order to survive?

### **Level 3: Analysis**

1. Which of these photos gives the most vivid description of the Great Depression? Why?
2. What do the photos tell you about the people's morale during the Great Depression?
3. What does the clothing and possessions tell you about the climate in California? Why would this be important during the Great Depression?



