

Created by: Deb Hicks, Donnelsville Elementary

Grade level: 5

Primary Source Citation: Room in an immigrant family's tenement apartment, 1910. Freedman, Russell. *Immigrant Kids*. New York: Puffin Books, 1980, pp. 18-19.

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

Level I: Description

1. What is this photograph of?
2. Do you recognize any of the objects in the photograph? List what you see and recognize.
3. How are the people in the photo dressed?

Level II: Interpretation

1. What do you think the relationship of the people is to one another?
2. What do you think the photographer was trying to show us with this picture?
3. Why do you think there is such a combination of things (a bed and shelves of dishes) in one room?

Level III: Analysis

1. How is this like or unlike a room in your house?
2. What do you think would have been difficult about living in a place like this?
3. Why do you think immigrants would accept these living conditions?
4. What does this photograph show you about life in the tenements in the 1910s?

