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Grade level: 5

Primary Source Citation: Works Progress Administration (WPA) Ex-Slave Narratives, 1937-1938. Ohio Historical Center Archives/Library. From *The African American Experience in Ohio: 1850-1920*. <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/mss/gr7999.html>

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the interviews located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. Who was interviewed on the paper you read?
2. How old was this person when they were freed?

Level II: Interpretation

1. What did you find to be the most interesting story in the interview? Why did you choose this story?
2. What did you notice about the ages of the people who were interviewed? Why do you think this was the case?
3. What affect do think the length of time that had passed who have on the stories that were told?

Level III: Analysis

1. What ways were the lives of these former slaves different from our own lives?
2. What surprised you the most from these interviews? What did you expect to read?
3. If you could ask this person one question, what would it be?