



Created by: Amy Martin, Rockway Middle School

Grade level: 8

Primary source citation: *Federal observation balloon Intrepid being inflated. Battle of Fair Oaks, Va., May 1862.* 111-B-680, National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/photos/>

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the photograph located at the above link (or attached) 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. Describe the people featured in this photograph.
2. What are they attempting to do?
3. Describe the setting.

Level II: Interpretation

1. About when was this photograph taken?
2. How would this contraption work?

Level III: Analysis

1. What purpose would this group have for using this contraption?
2. What impact could the use of this have on events of the time or the future?

