Created by: Victoria Palmieri, Patterson-Kennedy PK-8 School

Grade level: 6, used in conjunction with a science lesson

Primary Source Citation: Jerry City, Ohio, photograph, c. 1900, Wood County Historical Center, Oil Collection. Accessed at Ohio Memory:

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the photograph 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. How many oil derricks do you see? 
2. Where does this take place? 
3. What time period do you think this takes place? 

Level II: Interpretation

1. Why are there so many oil wells? 
2. Were you surprised that this was in Ohio? Why? 
3. Do you think these oil wells are around today? 

Level III: Analysis

1. What questions do you have about this picture? 
2. Does this help you understand why oil is a nonrenewable resource? Why or why not? 
3. What would happen if there was an oil spill? Would this affect the renewable resources like water and air? How?
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