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Grade level: 8th grade

Primary source citation: “Rankin House Freedom Stairway,” photograph, Ohio Historical Society, SC 1591. Accessed at Ohio History Central.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the attached 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 1: Description

1. What do you see in this photograph?
2. What would this be used for?
3. Describe the condition of what is pictured.

Level 2: Interpretation

1. When was this built?
2. Who would have built this?
3. Where might this be located?

Level 3: Analysis

1. What can you interpret about the surroundings in this picture?
2. Besides the common use, what other purpose(s) could this have served?
3. What do you imagine one would find when they reach the top?

