



Primary Sources to Engage Students with State and Local History

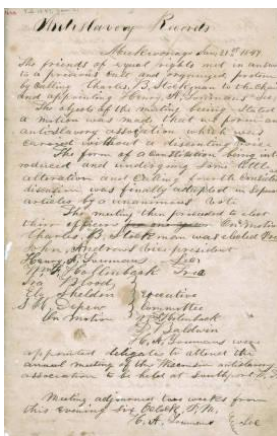
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Images of historical people, places, and events from their own communities can spark students' curiosity about history and inspire inquiry-based learning. **Below are just a few examples of the thousands of local primary sources available through Recollection Wisconsin for classroom use.** You can search <https://recollectionwisconsin.org> using your community or county name with the recommended search terms following each topic to find more!

What did historical civil rights movements look like in your community?

Search [Recollection Wisconsin](#) using your community or county name and these recommended search terms: anti-slavery, women's suffrage, voting rights, labor, civil rights, fair housing, women's rights, gay rights, treaty rights, protest, sit-in

Here are some examples:



[Mukwonago Anti-Slavery Society Constitution, 1847](#)
Wisconsin Historical Society



[Interview with Anne Harris on discrimination in Beloit and involvement in civil rights activities, 1976](#)
Wisconsin Historical Society



[Suffragist Georgiana L. Lane James, 1865](#)
Richland County History Room

What did school look like in your community in the past? How is this similar to or different from your school experience?

Search [Recollection Wisconsin](#) for your community or county name and these recommended search terms: students, teachers, educators, classrooms, playing, school day, high school, elementary school, middle school, junior high, homework, grades

Here are some examples:



[School bus, Ranke School, 1931](#)
Waterford Public Library



[Marshmallow Snowmen](#)
South Wood County Historical Museum



[First Grade class, U.S. Grant School, 1937](#)
Mead Public Library

Who were the Indigenous people who lived in your community and who later settled there?

Search [Recollection Wisconsin](#) for your community or county name and these recommended search terms: Ojibwe, Ojibwa, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Bad River, St. Croix, Sokaogon, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida, Potawatomi, Stockbridge-Munsee, Brothertown, Native Americans, American Indians

Here are some examples:



[Maggie Bearskin Skye and George St. Germain, 1908](#)
Langlade County Historical Society



[Hat with beadwork, Michelle Funmaker, 1983](#)
Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College



[Sister Florence & Mr. Green from Odanah, 1935.](#)
Marquette University Archives

What kinds of workers were in your community 100 years ago? What did they do? What is different and/or similar to today?

Search [Recollection Wisconsin](#) for your community or county name and these recommended search terms: miners, farmers, loggers, cheese factory, factory workers, industry, livery, wagon, train, automobile, Main Street (or names of other local streets), block, businesses, business district, office building, commercial building, city directory, bird's eye view

Here are some examples:



[Cooper Underwear factory employees, ca. 1900](#)
Kenosha History Center / UW Digital Collections



[Kewaunee ships of war, 1941-1946](#)
Kewaunee Public Library.



[Planting potatoes, ca. 1915](#)
New Berlin Historical Society



[Logging crew hauling timber](#)
Langlade County Historical Society

What local events have shaped your community?

Search [Recollection Wisconsin](#) for your community or county name and these recommended search topics and terms:

- Transportation and communication: railroad, highway, telegraph, telephone, shipping
- Population changes: migration, immigration, suburbs, housing
- Lifestyle changes: education, recreation, tourism
- Environmental events: tornado, flood, blizzard, fire

Here are some examples:



[Onlookers of the berthed ship Edmund Fitzgerald, 1959](#)

Milwaukee Public Library



[Bird's Eye View of Peshtigo, 1871](#)

Wisconsin Historical Society



[Wisconsin Rapids Flood of 1880](#)

McMillan Memorial Library

What did homelife look like for people in your community or Wisconsin in the past? How is this similar to or different from how people live today?

Search [Recollection Wisconsin](#) for your community or county name and these recommended search terms: family, children, food, clothing, furniture, music, traditions, recreation, chores, pets, vacation, hobby

Here are some examples:



[Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Bacon, Paul and Rex Sheldon, 1895](#)
Beloit College Archives



[Ice skating on the Milwaukee River, 1897](#)
Milwaukee Public Library



[Jerome 'Sanome' Sanapaw tapping maple sugar, Keshena](#)
College of Menominee Nation S. Verna Fowler Academic Library/Menominee Public Library

What is Recollection Wisconsin?

Historical resources available through Recollection Wisconsin are contributed by libraries, archives, museums and local history organizations across the state. These materials include photographs, letters, scrapbooks, yearbooks, audio and video recordings, maps, artifacts, and other unique resources documenting local, state, national, and even international communities, events, and people. Using the resources available through Recollection Wisconsin, students can engage with history, develop critical thinking skills, and construct meaningful knowledge from evidence.

For questions, comments, or requests, please contact us at info@recollectionwisconsin.org.