



National Park Service
Teaching with **MUSEUM** Collections
Management Program
<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum>

How to Read a Photograph

What do you see?	Examine the photograph for few minutes. Describe what you see.	
Divide the image into quarter.	Describe what you see in each quarter of the photograph. What additional information do you observe?	
Describe what you see in the photograph	Visual Element	Observe, Deduce, and Infer What can you tell by looking closely at the photo?
	People Identify the people, one or a group, gender, age, relationship to each other, what are they wearing?	
	Photographer & studio	

	<p>Time What is the time of day, season, year, period or century?</p>	
	<p>Activities/Events What are the people doing; what event is taking place?</p>	
	<p>Objects/Animals/Plants</p>	
	<p>Place Is it urban/rural, indoor/outdoor. Describe buildings, landscape and other features</p>	
	<p>Photo title/caption</p>	
	<p>Other</p>	
<p>What can you say about the photo?</p>	<p>What other questions do you have about this photograph, where could you find answers to them? What can you infer</p>	