Using Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources: Teachers’ Experiences

"When my students work with primary sources, the classroom appears chaotic. Students are talking, gesturing, and sometimes, even arguing. What is actually happening is that the students are engaged... and communicating with each other."
CIVIL WAR COMMUNICATIONS LESSON

• How do you communicate?

• How did people communicate 150 years ago?
Sherman’s march to the sea

Telegraph research on loc.gov
Pages from Samuel Morse’s daguerreotype notebook

Telegraph research on loc.gov
First telegraphic message

Telegraph research on loc.gov
U.S. Military Telegraph battery wagon, Petersburg, VA

Telegraph research
- How does the telegraph work?
- How do you decipher Morse code?
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How did the telegraph impact the battlefield?
- What were the advantages and disadvantages of the telegraph over other forms of communication?
- What replaced the telegraph?
- How is telegraphing similar to texting on your cell phone?

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