

Teaching with Primary Sources • Professional Development

# LINCOLN'S POCKETS

GOAL	Understanding Primary Sources	<b>Time Required</b> .....
OBJECTIVES	Participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine primary sources</li> <li>Discuss how teaching with primary sources engages and motivates student learning.</li> </ul>	1 hour 0 minutes  <b>Standards</b> ..... AASL 2.1.1 AASL 2.1.3 AASL 2.3.1
MATERIALS	<b>Materials/Resources Using Primary Sources in the Classroom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Artifacts of Assassination</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watch Fob</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Button</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchief</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wallet</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confederate \$5 Bill</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Glass Lens Cleaner and Buffer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Glasses Case</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eyeglasses with Name on Inner Stem</li> </ul>	
PREPARATION	Print one copy per pair of participants of the items below. Assemble to make a set to distribute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch fob</li> <li>Button</li> <li>Pocket knife</li> <li>Handkerchief</li> <li>Wallet</li> <li>Confederate \$5 dollar bill</li> <li>Glass lens cleaner and buffer</li> <li>Glasses case</li> <li>Lincoln's eyeglasses with name on inner stem</li> </ul> Read and understand the following Library of Congress resources before the activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Artifacts of Assassination</i>  <a href="http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm012.html">http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm012.html</a> </li> </ul>	

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### PROCEDURE

1. Ask participants to examine the set of images. Do not note the significance of the items. Use the following questions for consideration:
  - What clues do you see to suggest why this group of items might be significant?
  - What questions might you have about these items?
2. Tell participants that these items were in Lincoln's pockets on the night he was assassinated. Share other information from *Artifacts of Assassination* as appropriate. Invite them to study the images again and consider what questions they have in light of the new information.
3. Have participants discuss the following questions:
  - What particular items did you see that provide evidence of Lincoln's daily activities and of his life?
  - What story did these items tell you?
  - What makes these artifacts significant today?
  - What items might be in the pockets of the current U.S. President? Explain your choices.

### ASSESSMENT

Discuss how teaching with primary sources engages and motivates student learning, and have a few participants share how they might use this activity in their classrooms.

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There are 10 resources for this activity...



## Artifacts of Assassination

Information about the contents of Abraham Lincoln's pockets on the night of his assassination

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm012.html>

(2 pages)



## Watch Fob

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=0>



## Button

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=1>



## Pocket Knife

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=2>



## Handkerchief

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=3>



## Wallet

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=4>

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## Confederate \$5 Bill

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=5>



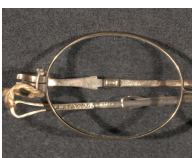
## Glass Lens Cleaner and Buffer

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=6>



## Glasses Case

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=7>



## Eyeglasses with Name on Inner Stem

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm1049/lprbcsmscsm1049.db&recNum=8>



## AMERICAN TREASURES OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*Memory*



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### Artifacts of Assassination



[Lincoln realia, 1865](#)  
*New York Times*, vol. XIV, no. 4236  
(April 15, 1865)

[Rare Book & Special Collections Division](#)



[Newspaper clippings](#)  
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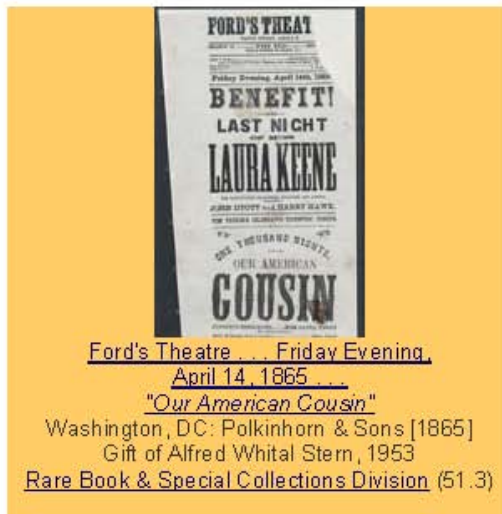
[Spectacles](#)  
[Spectacles case](#)  
[Reading glasses](#)

When Abraham Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1865, he was carrying two pairs of spectacles and a lens polisher, a pocketknife, a watch fob, a linen handkerchief, and a brown leather wallet containing a five-dollar Confederate note and nine newspaper clippings, including several favorable to the president and his policies. Given to his son Robert Todd upon Lincoln's death, these everyday items, which through association with tragedy had become like relics, were kept in the Lincoln family for more than seventy years. They came to the Library in 1937 as part of the gift from Lincoln's granddaughter, Mary Lincoln Isham, whose gift included several books and daguerreotypes, a silver inkstand, and Mary Todd Lincoln's seed-pearl necklace and matching bracelets.

It is quite unusual for the Library to keep personal artifacts among its holdings, and they were not put on display until 1976, when then Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin thought their exposure would humanize a man who had become "mythologically engulfed." But the availability of these artifacts has only piqued interest in the Lincoln myth--the contents of Lincoln's pockets are among the items visitors to the Library most often ask to see.

The playbill announces the fateful performance of *Our American Cousin*, part of a collection of Lincolniana donated by Alfred Whital Stern.

One of the most complete representations of conspiracy literature as well as newspaper accounts of the assassination, like that in the *New York Times* pictured here, was assembled by Alfred Whital Stern. The most extensive collection of Lincolniana ever assembled by a



private individual, Stern's important gift to the Library in 1953 included books, broadsides, paintings, photographs, medals, manuscripts, and memorabilia.

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