

# Document Based Question

grade level: junior high

**theskyscraper**museum  
tools for teaching

The documents in this DBQ vary in their level of difficulty. As such, there are a number of ways to use this material in your classroom.

- ▶ Traditional DBQ. Assign all the documents and one or two of the questions that accompany each to all students, requiring them to use a number of them in an essay written in response to the prompt.
- ▶ Practice Document Analysis. Assign individual documents and accompanying questions to students according to their level of readiness. The documents are given here in order from least to most difficult. In a subsequent class period, you may arrange students in small groups to share their findings with one another, or have students explain their learning to the whole class. Once students have a breadth of knowledge on the topic, assign the essay response to be written in class or as homework.
- ▶ Differentiated group activity. Give small groups of students a number of documents to examine and respond to, and have them plan a response to the essay prompt as a group. However, give students a choice as to their mode of presentation—for example, a poster, a five-minute newscast, or a traditional written response—that may better suit their learning style. Include a group grading sheet so that students may evaluate one another's performance on the task.



## ▶ Essay Prompt

The Empire State Building was the tallest building in the world and was the skyscraper with the most floor space when it was built in 1929-1931. It was built more cheaply than expected and much faster than previous skyscrapers had been built. Write a brief essay explaining some of the planning and technological developments that helped to make the Empire State Building possible. In your essay, include:

*I. An introduction and conclusion*

*II. Evidence from at least four or five of the documents given*

*III. Correct spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure*

*IV. Reasons why the planning and technology used in the construction of the Empire State Building helped it to be built more quickly and cheaply than had been thought possible*