



PHINEAS GAGE

A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science

by John Fleischman



My Fingerprints, My Footprints

Primary Source Documents

Objective: ...differentiate between, locate, and use primary and secondary sources

Fortunately, the life of Phineas Gage was closely studied and well documented by Dr. Harlow. The doctor’s notes and letters led to other doctors taking an interest in the case. From it, knowledge of the brain and how it works grew tremendously. The records, model, and pictures that were made at that time became known as “primary source documents.”

In 100 years, what primary source documents will be left to reveal who you were and what you did? In your personal journal, do the following activities below to discover where your fingerprints have been left and where your footprints led. If future archaeologists found the evidence you left, what could they infer or conclude about your life? What could they conclude about your family, community, region or nation?

My Activities During the Past 24 Hours	My Evidence and Records of These Activities (a diary, notes to yourself, letter or email to friend or relative)	Other People’s Records of My Activities (diary, notes, calendar entry, letter or email, school records)	Eyewitnesses to My Activities (Oral History)	What Stuff in My Trash Tells about Me?





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