



NAME _____

DATE _____

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

Explore an important historical document whether it be a newspaper, letter, advertisement, statement, diary, speech, or governing document. Briefly answer the following questions.

INQUIRY QUESTION	KEYWORD ANSWER	EXPLAIN YOUR EVIDENCE
What materials were needed to create this document?		
What type of document is this?		
How did this document influence history?		
What place names, if any, are included in this document?		
What dates, if any, are included in this document?		
When was this document created, or published?		
Who created, or published, this document?		
Who was the intended audience of this document?		
Where might someone see this document?		
How would this document make someone feel?		
What is the focus of the document?		
What is the purpose of the document?		



20 QUESTIONS FOR READING AND EVALUATING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

INQUIRY QUESTION	KEYWORD ANSWER	EXPLAIN YOUR EVIDENCE
What idea, or ideas, does this document communicate?		
How would someone describe this document to someone else who had not seen it yet?		
Why was this document created at this point in history?		
What perspective does the person who created it have about this time and place?		
Why might someone save this document?		
Does this document remind you of anything you see today?		
What questions do you still have about this document?		
Where would you go to learn more about this document?		

Based on your answers, write 2–3 sentences about what you can conclude about the time and place this document was created and what significance it had in American history.
