

In-Archives Handout

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Part of an in-archives exercise at <http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/rubbish>

Group 3: Gowanus Flushing Tunnel

Opening of the Gowanus Flushing Tunnel, v1986.247.1.20, 1911; Brooklyn sewers construction photograph collection, ARC.209; Brooklyn Historical Society.

Top line of outlet pipes 180" Sewer Head of Gowanus Canal, circa 1905, v1986.242.1.13 a,b; John Farnsworth Hammond, Jr. photograph album and other materials, v1986.242; Brooklyn Historical Society.

Views of the Gowanus Canal, circa 1960, v1974.4.1332, v1974.4.1333, and v1974.4.1334; John D. Morrell photograph collection, ARC.005; Brooklyn Historical Society.

Take detailed written notes for each photograph in your group.

1. Care and Handling

Please put on gloves before handling any photographs. You may use your cell phone or digital camera to photograph the documents, but TURN FLASH OFF.

2. Observation

Inspect each photo, front and back. Note its approximate size and weight and what it is made of. Describe any marks you notice. Transcribe any writing on it.

Describe what you see in the photograph:

People

Objects

Activities

3. Inference

Based on what you have observed above *and* in the BHS catalog description, list things you might infer from this photograph.

In addition to the subject of the image, think about how and why it was made, e.g. Who took the photo? Who was the intended audience? What do you think the photographer wanted to capture?

4. Questions

What questions does this document raise in your mind?
Where could you find the answers to these questions?