

# PRIMARY SOURCES USED IN **FOURTEEN**

## A THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

*FOURTEEN* is a moving theatrical performance that sheds light on the Reconstruction era and the ratification of the 14th Amendment. **Every spoken word in the performance comes exclusively from primary sources.**

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### WHAT IS A PRIMARY SOURCE?

A primary source is an original document or object from history. They are different from secondary sources, which are accounts or interpretations of events created by someone without firsthand experience. Examining primary sources gives us a powerful sense of history and the complexity of the past. Analyzing primary sources can also guide us toward higher-order thinking and better critical thinking and analysis skills.

### HOW CAN WE EXPLORE A PRIMARY SOURCE?

A great way to explore primary sources is to ask questions, such as:

- Who created this primary source? When was it created?
- What was the creator's purpose in making this primary source?
- What does the creator do to get their point across?
- What biases or stereotypes do you see?
- Who was this primary source's audience?
- What do you see that you didn't expect?
- What questions does it raise?

To delve deeper into the themes of the 14th Amendment and the Reconstruction era, explore the primary sources (on the back of this sheet) which are used in *FOURTEEN*, including personal letters, autobiographies, and constitutional texts. For further information, visit the *Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality* exhibit, located on the ground floor of the National Constitution Center.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Independence Mall | 525 Arch Street | Philadelphia, PA  
215.409.6700 | [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)



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## PRIMARY SOURCES

- Declaration of Independence, 1776 (Library of Congress (LOC))
- The United States Constitution, 1787 (LOC)
- Frederick Douglass, letter "To My Old Master, Thomas Auld," published in *The North Star*, 1848 (LOC)
- Supreme Court ruling of *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 1857 (LOC)
- Abraham Lincoln, "House Divided" speech, 1858 (LOC)
- South Carolina Declaration of the Immediate Causes which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union, 1860 (Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
- Alexander Stephens' Cornerstone Speech, 1861 (National Archives and Records Administration (NARA))
- Frederick Douglass, "Watchnight," an excerpt from *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, published 1881 (LOC)
- The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 (LOC)
- Letter from Annie Davis to President Abraham Lincoln, 1864 (NARA)
- Frederick Douglass, "Address at a Meeting for the Promotion of Colored Enlistments," an excerpt from *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, 1881 (LOC)
- Susie King Taylor, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33D United States Colored Troops Late 1st S.C. Volunteers*, 1902 (Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University Libraries)
- Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, 1865 (NARA)
- Frederick Douglass, excerpt from *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, 1881 (LOC)
- Excerpts from the Black Codes of Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and South Carolina, 1865-1866 (LOC)
- "Proceedings of the Colored People's Convention of the State of South Carolina, held in Zion Church, Charleston, November 1865. Together with the declaration of rights and wrongs; an address to the people; a petition to the legislature, and a memorial to Congress." 1865 (Published by the South Carolina Leader Office in Charleston, SC)
- Andrew Johnson, "This is a white man's government" speech, 1864 (LOC)
- Thaddeus Stevens, addresses to the 39th Congress, as printed in *The Congressional Globe*, 1865 (NARA)
- 13th Amendment to the Constitution, passed 1865 (LOC)
- Civil Rights Act, 1866 (LOC)
- Louisa Matilda Jacobs, report to The Freedmen's Bureau, 1866 (Documenting the American South Project, University of North Carolina)
- 39th Congress, debates over the 14th Amendment, as printed in *The Congressional Globe*, 1866 (NARA)
- 14th Amendment to the Constitution, passed 1866 (LOC)
- *The New-Orleans riot: Its official history: the dispatches of Gens. Sheridan, Grant, and Baird—the President answered*, 1866 (LOC)
- The Reconstruction Act, 1867 (LOC)
- Harriet A. Jacobs, letter to Ednah Dow Cheney, 1867 (Yale University, The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition: Sophia Smith Collection)
- Francis L. Cardozo, letter to his brother, 1867 (As reprinted in *The Trouble They Seen: Story of Reconstruction in the Words of African Americans* by Dorothy Sterling, 1994)
- Oscar Dunn, speech delivered to the State legislation upon swearing in, 1868 (As reprinted in *The Trouble They Seen: Story of Reconstruction in the Words of African Americans* by Dorothy Sterling, 1994)
- 15th Amendment to the Constitution, passed 1869 (LOC)
- Senator Robert B. Elliott, address to the 42nd Congress, as printed in *The Congressional Globe*, 1871 (NARA)
- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, "The Great Problem to be Solved" speech, as printed in the Transcript of the Centennial Celebration of Pennsylvania Society for Abolition, 1875 (The Historical Society of Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Abolition Society papers)

## IMAGE AND MUSIC SOURCES:

Austin History Center, Austin Public Library  
Chester County Historical Society  
Fisk Jubilee Singers (*music*)  
Free Library of Pennsylvania  
Harmoneion Singers (*music*)  
Library of Congress  
National Archives and Records Administration

National Museum of  
African American History and Culture  
New York Public Library  
New York Historical Society  
Steve Reich (*music*)  
The State Historical Society of Missouri  
University of Wisconsin River Falls  
Additional composing or arrangement by Robert Kaplowitz