

A FLOOD OF PICTURES

Comparing photographs of the 1927 Mississippi Delta flood to photographs from the 2019 flood of the Missouri River.

Personal Note: My community of Brunswick, Missouri was devastated by the 2019 flood. It affected virtually everyone. Many farmers saw their livelihoods literally wash away. Fields were flooded and livestock drowned. Businesses were destroyed, homes were uninhabitable, and roads impassable. All of the photos from the 2019 flood of the Missouri River were taken by me personally.

Day 1

Ask students to define a primary source. *A document or firsthand account or other source that constitutes an object of study. They were created at the time or event of someone who actually experienced it.*

Ask students to give examples of primary sources. *Letters, speeches, interviews, diary entries, **photographs**, audio recording, video recordings, contemporary newspaper articles, magazine articles, newspapers, poetry, songs, novels, art, drama, pottery, etc.*

Put students in small groups and pass out archival photographs of the 1927 Mississippi Delta flood and the photographs of the 2019 flood of the Missouri River. Ask students to become historical detectives and to put these pictures in two separate piles based on the when and where these photos were taken. Ask them to look for clues such as:

Who is in the picture?

What technology is in the photograph?

Who might be the photographer and what message might they be trying to convey?

Next, have students share their ideas with other groups. Tell the students which photos belong to which disaster.

Day 2

Pass out this historical photograph analysis guide and have students complete it based on the photos given the previous day.

[Teacher's Guide: Analyzing Photographs & Prints | Teacher Resources - Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](#)

Day 3

Students will read and summarize these articles on the 1927 flood. These articles are from varying perspectives.

[The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 Laid Bare the Divide Between the North and the South | History| Smithsonian Magazine](#)

[The Flood of 1927 and Its Impact in Greenville, Mississippi - 2006-03 \(ms.gov\)](#)

[The Mississippi River Great Flood of 1927 • \(blackpast.org\)](#)

[Flood History MS.pdf \(weather.gov\)](#)

Day 4

Students will read and summarize these articles on the 2019 flood. Again, these articles are from varying perspectives.

[2019 set a record for flooding in Missouri. How bad was the damage? | Local | columbiamissourian.com](#)

[Missouri River Flooding | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#)

[Spring Flooding Summary 2019 \(weather.gov\)](#)

[‘Breaches Everywhere’: Flooding Bursts Midwest Levees, and Tough Questions Follow - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Day 5

Have students compare and contrast the floods in 1927 Mississippi to that of Missouri in 2019.

Photographs of the 2019 Missouri River Flood





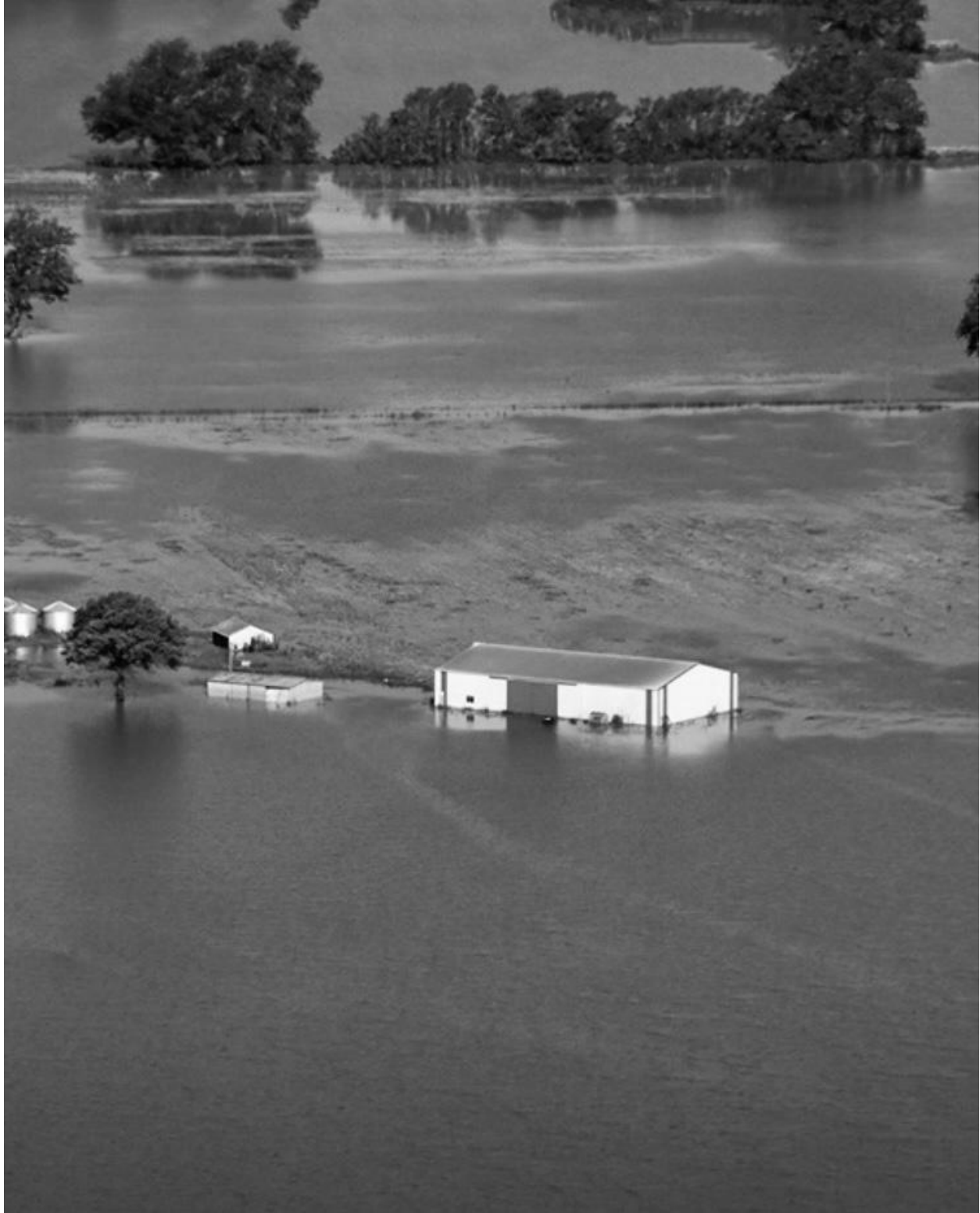




Jennifer Waugh
PHOTOGRAPHY







PICTURES FROM LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OF THE 1927 MISSISSIPPI FLOOD













