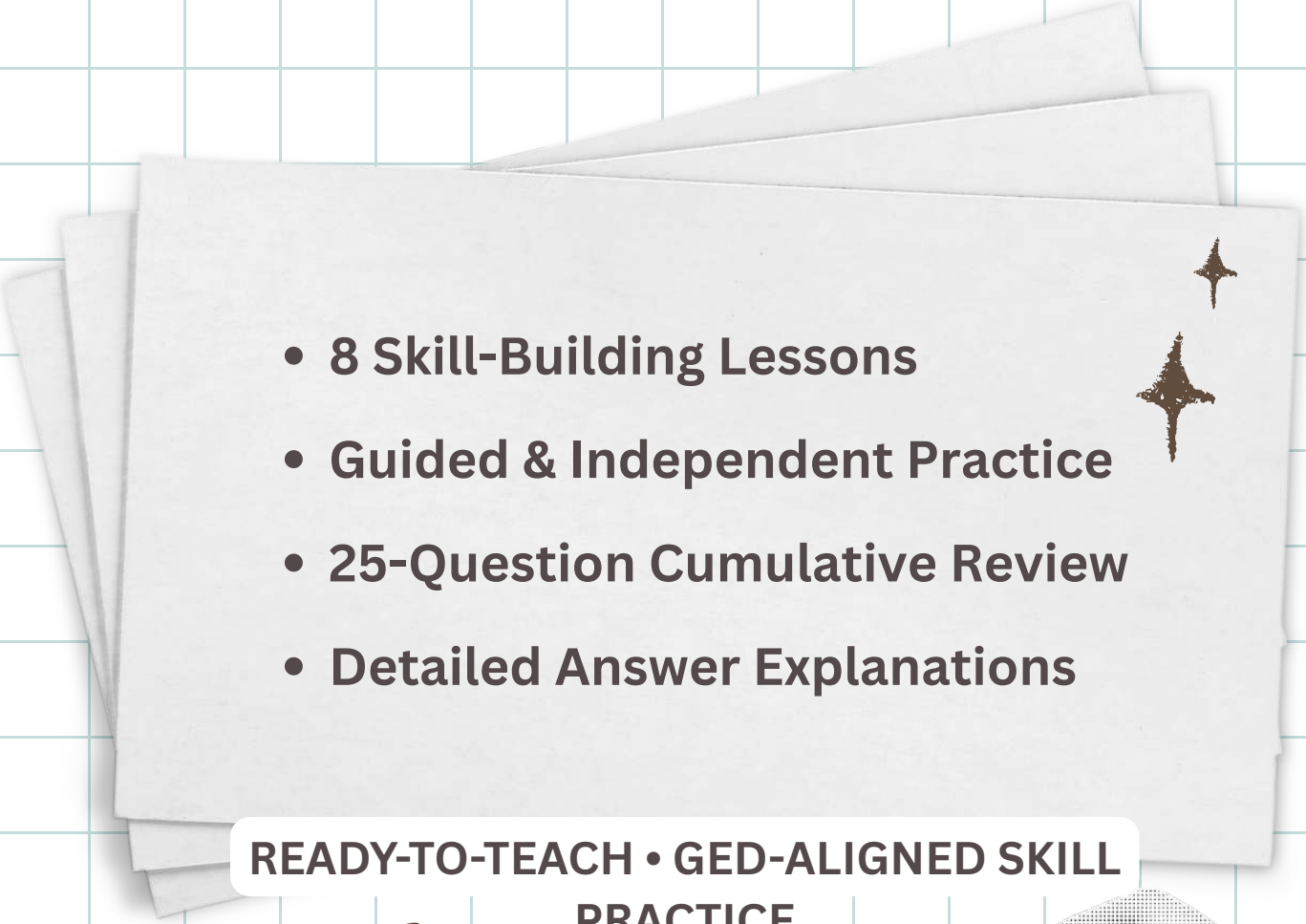


GED SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS SERIES

Primary Source Analysis

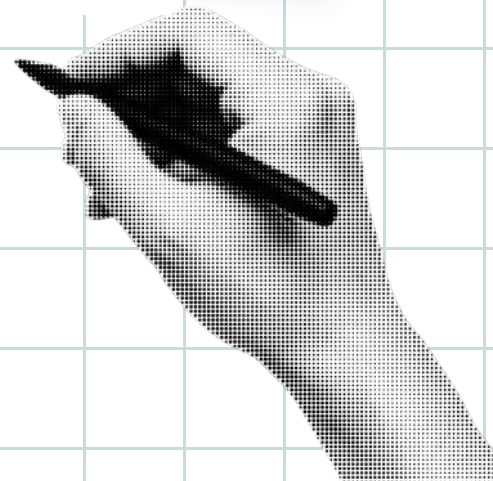
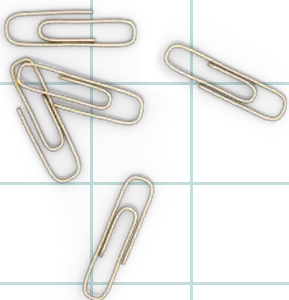
Historical Documents • Evidence • Perspective & Claims

- 
- 8 Skill-Building Lessons
 - Guided & Independent Practice
 - 25-Question Cumulative Review
 - Detailed Answer Explanations

**READY-TO-TEACH • GED-ALIGNED SKILL
PRACTICE**



marie semsim



GED Social Studies

Primary Source Analysis

Historical Documents, Evidence, Perspective & Claims

Skill-Building Practice + Answer Key • The SOURCE Strategy • Detailed Explanations

A Skill-Building Workbook for Adult Learners

Marie Semsim

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This workbook includes eight skill-building lessons, a 25-question GED-Aligned Skills Practice Review, and answer keys with detailed explanations. It is designed to help adult learners develop historical source-analysis skills through the SOURCE strategy.

The explanatory text, questions, answer explanations, instructional framework, and illustrative practice sources are original works created for this resource. Authentic historical excerpts are attributed to their original creators. When a historical source has been shortened or modified for length or readability, it is identified as “Adapted for educational use.” Sources created specifically for skill practice are identified as “Illustrative source created for educational practice.”

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The practice activities are designed to develop skills relevant to GED® Social Studies preparation. They are not official GED® test questions and are not intended to reproduce or simulate the official examination.

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Teacher Guide

What This Workbook Teaches

This workbook helps adult learners develop the skills needed to analyze primary sources, including speeches, letters, laws, editorials, and other historical documents.

Students learn a repeatable six-step strategy called **SOURCE** and apply it through eight progressively structured lessons.

This resource is a companion to *GED Social Studies: Graphs, Charts & Tables Practice* and follows the same instructional sequence:

Learn → Worked Example → Guided Practice → Independent Practice

What's Included

- **8 skill-building lessons** covering source identification, author and audience, central claims, textual evidence, perspective, historical context, source comparison, and evaluating claims.
- **The SOURCE Strategy**, a six-step framework for analyzing historical documents.
- **Guided and independent practice** within each lesson.
- **25-question GED-Aligned Skills Practice Review** integrating skills from across the workbook.
- **Answer keys and detailed explanations** to support feedback, independent learning, and targeted reteaching.

Recommended Uses

Whole-Class Instruction: Introduce the SOURCE strategy, model the Worked Example, and guide students through practice before assigning independent questions.

Small-Group or Tutoring: Focus on one lesson at a time. Use student responses and answer explanations to identify specific areas requiring additional instruction.

Independent Study: Students read the Learn section, examine the Worked Example, complete Guided and Independent Practice, and review their answers.

Review and Formative Assessment: Use the 25-question final review after completing the lessons to assess how well students can apply source-analysis skills across different historical topics.

Suggested Lesson Sequence

Lessons 1–2 establish foundational skills in identifying sources, authors, audiences, and purposes.

Lessons 3–5 develop students' ability to identify central claims, locate supporting evidence, and interpret perspectives.

Lessons 6–8 integrate historical context, cause-and-effect reasoning, source comparison, and evaluation of claims.

After completing the eight lessons, students can attempt the 25-question final review to identify strengths and areas for additional practice.

Using the Answer Explanations

The answer explanations help students understand not only which answer is correct, but also why the other choices are less appropriate or unsupported.

Use recurring errors to guide reteaching. For example, students who consistently select historically plausible but unsupported answers may benefit from additional practice locating direct textual evidence.

Note on Historical Language

Some historical excerpts preserve terminology that reflects the period in which they were created. Certain terms may be outdated or considered inappropriate today.

Teachers may wish to provide brief historical context when necessary while encouraging respectful discussion.

Important Note

This workbook provides independently developed GED-aligned skill-building activities. It is not an official GED® preparation product, and the final review is not intended to reproduce the format, difficulty, or scoring of the official GED® Social Studies examination.

Student Introduction

Why Primary Source Skills Matter

The GED® Social Studies test often asks you to analyze information from historical documents, including speeches, letters, laws, and court opinions.

You do not need to memorize every historical document. Instead, you need to understand what a source says, recognize the author's perspective, and choose answers supported by evidence.

This workbook teaches you a six-step strategy called **SOURCE** to help you approach unfamiliar historical documents with greater confidence.

What You Will Learn

By completing this workbook, you will practice how to:

- Identify a source's author, type, date, and historical context.
- Recognize the intended audience and purpose.
- Determine the main idea or central claim.
- Find evidence that supports a statement or conclusion.
- Recognize an author's perspective.
- Explain historical causes and effects.
- Compare the claims and perspectives of two sources.
- Evaluate whether a conclusion is supported by evidence.

How to Use This Workbook

Step 1 — Learn the Skill

Read the Learn section to understand the key concepts and vocabulary.

Step 2 — Study the Worked Example

Follow the reasoning carefully. Notice how the answer is supported by specific words or details from the source.

Step 3 — Practice with Guidance

Complete the Guided Practice questions using the provided hints.

Step 4 — Practice Independently

Answer the Independent Practice questions without relying on hints.

Step 5 — Check and Learn

Use the answer key and detailed explanations to understand your mistakes and strengthen your reasoning.

Step 6 — Complete the Final Review

After finishing all eight lessons, complete the **25-question GED-Aligned Skills Practice Review** to apply what you have learned across different historical topics.