

Photo Foolery

This activity accompanies “The Lover and the Moon,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5004.

Activity Title: Photo Foolery

Description: The students will identify photos as real or fake.

Subject: Social Studies

Skill: World History

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will interpret primary and secondary sources.

Materials:

- “The Lover and the Moon” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Internet access to: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/0104/foolery/tips.html>

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the meaning of the poem. Also, discuss with the students the folklore presented in the poem. Explain to the students that everything we hear and see is not necessarily a fact.

Then, present the class with the National Geographic photo foolery website. As a class, have the students raise their hands to vote on whether or not the photographs on the website are real or fake (there are tips given on the website to read before starting the exercise). Finally, discuss with the students that even though a source may look like a primary source, such as a photograph, technology can easily alter or falsify a primary source.

