

Name: _____

Photograph Analysis Worksheet



Fig. 3.1. Solomon D. Butcher. Sylvester Rawding family sod house, north of Sargent, Custer County, Nebraska, 1886. The 1885 Census mentions Sylvester, wife Emma, daughter Bessie (age 16), son Philip (age 17), son Willie (age 7), son Harry (age 15). Glass plate negative, 6.5 by 8.5 inches. (RG2608. PH-1784) *Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections.*

Answer the following questions about the photo above:

Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine its features more closely. Next, divide the photograph into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. List what you see in the photograph.

C. Think about who made the photograph and why. What purpose does the photograph serve?

D. Consider how the photograph expresses information. What visual elements or techniques does it use?

Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

B. Where could you find answers to them?