

World Photography Day (August 19, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? World Photography Day, celebrated every year on August 19 to commemorate the invention that changed the way we see the world. 📷

Who? Louis Daguerre, a French inventor who developed the daguerreotype, the very first process to capture a permanent image. 🎨

Where? All over the world, but it all started in Paris, France, at the Academy of Sciences.

When? On August 19, 1839, France gifted the world with the invention of photography—and that's the date we still celebrate today.

Why is it important? Because photography has changed everything: thanks to it, we can preserve memories, show reality, and share what we see with millions of people. 🌍

🎯 **For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about photography.**



OBJECTIVES

- Discover the major milestones in the invention of photography, from Niépce to Kodak
- Understand and distinguish the five camera shots, from the wide shot to the extreme close-up
- Recognize the camera shot used in a given photograph
- Discover three photographs that have become classics in photography history
- Formulate a reasoned opinion in writing about what makes a photograph famous



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Understanding a documentary video
 - Reading technical definitions
 - Written expression (short answers)
- **Arts**
 - Visual language vocabulary
 - Analyzing image framing
 - Interpreting a photographic work
- **Social Studies / History**
 - Historical landmarks (1826-1888)
 - Historical figures
 - Key events of the 20th century



COMPETENCIES

- Researching and interpreting information
- Watching and understanding a documentary video
- Observing and describing an image
- Analyzing the framing of a photograph
- Producing a structured response
- Justifying an opinion with specific examples



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students how many photos they think they have on their phone (or a parent's).
- Ask them if they have a photo they will never forget, and why.
- Show them an old photograph (for example, a daguerreotype) and ask them what is different about it compared to a photo taken today.
- Gather their hypotheses: How were photos taken before the invention of digital technology?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — A Little History of Photography. Watching of a video on the major milestones in the invention of photography, then answers to four questions.

Q1 — Nicéphore Niépce, in France, in 1826.

Q2 — Louis Daguerre, with the daguerreotype.

Q3 — The negative.

Q4 — In 1888, by the American George Eastman.

STEP 2 — Close-Up or Far Away? Discovery of the five camera shots, then identification of the angle used for five photographs.

Q5 — Extreme close-up.

Q6 — Wide shot.

Q7 — Full shot.

Q8 — Medium shot.

Q9 — Close-up.

STEP 3 — Timeless Pictures. Discovery of three famous photographs, then answers to open-ended questions about what makes them so renowned.

Q10 — Open-ended answer. (Victory in Times Square)

Q11 — Open-ended answer. (Buzz Aldrin and the flag)

Q12 — Open-ended answer. (The Afghan girl)



WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group review of the five camera shots learned in step 2.
- Discuss what surprised the students the most (the exposure time of the very first photo, the fact that the skyscraper photo was staged for an advertisement).
- Ask: In your opinion, what makes a photo unforgettable?
- Connect this to the photos the students take themselves every day.



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 JP Pullos. *Photography for Kids: A Beginner's Book*.
Sourcebooks Editions

