Primary Source Analysis Worksheet

- **Document Title**: Antiquities Act of 1906
- **Type of Document**: Congressional Record
- **Date of the Document**: June 8, 1906
- **Author or Creator of the Document**: U.S. Senate and House of Representatives
- **For what audience was the document written?**: United States citizens and government officials
- **Document Information:**
  
  In your own words, list 3 main ideas from the document. Cite a quote from the document that illustrates each main idea. (These are three possible answers, others are acceptable as long as documentation is included.)

  1. National monuments and historic structures need protection from destruction by the public. “That any person who shall appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity…”
  2. There are historic and natural areas that are of value and should be preserved. “to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest…”
  3. If necessary the government can also take over lands owners if it is necessary to preserve the area specified. “held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government…”

  Why was the document written?

  This document makes it possible for the President to declare areas historic landmarks or national monuments to be preserved.

  List 3 things the document informs the reader about life in the nation/region at the time it was written. (These are three possible answers, others are acceptable as long as documentation is included.)

  1. The concept of preserving historic sites and wilderness areas was a new idea.
  2. Preservation of such sites was an important issue to the president and the legislature and carried a steep financial punishment for the time.
  3. Legislators believed that historical artifacts and natural areas should be for public use and not private.

  Is the document a credible source of information? Explain.

  Yes, the document is credible, this is the law that makes it possible for the President to declare historic landmarks and national monuments.

  Name the most memorable or powerful quote from the document. Why were these words chosen?

  Any answer is acceptable as long as the student provides support for their answer.