



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES



National Archives in Washington, DC

National Archives and Records Administration

An Introduction, Grades 4-8

What is an archives?



Photograph in the stacks at the opening of the Social Security exhibit at the National Archives, 9/25/1964



Reproduction of the stacks in the Boeing Learning Center

What is a record?



Birth certificate for
John F. Kennedy



President George H.W. Bush, First Lady
Barbara Bush, President George W.
Bush, and First Lady Laura Bush



President Barack Obama, First Lady
Michelle Obama, their daughters Malia
and Sasha, and their dogs, Bo and Sunny



Why do we need the National Archives?



The condition of War Department records stored in the White House garage (1920s) illustrate the need for a National Archives.



Stacks at the National Archives in Washington, DC

Professions at the National Archives

National Archives employees preserve the records of the U.S. Government and make them available to the public. They do this in different ways, but mostly as archivists, archives technicians, conservators, and records managers.



Yonjoo Strum is a conservator at Archives II in College Park, MD



Kate Mollan is an archivist with the Center for Legislative Archives at Archives I in Washington, DC



Sheila Mayo is an audio-visual archivist at the Jimmy Carter Library in Atlanta, GA



What can you do at the National Archives?

- Research our National History Day presentation or other school project
- [Become a citizen archivist and help tag and transcribe original records online](#)
- [Explore historic records in the National Archives Catalog](#)
- Visit one of our 14 Presidential Libraries and Museums
- Volunteer!

