

If you only have 15 minutes ...

Interpret how postcards conveyed civic identity and community pride.

Observe (5 minutes)

Skim the article on the different cities named Cairo using the following strategy:

- Look at the headlines, captions and photos.
- Examine the featured postcards closely.
- Copy a phrase or detail that stands out.

While skimming, think about:

- What first impression do you get about the towns named Cairo from the postcards and images?¹

- How do postcards of the early 20th century help tell each town's story? What information about the towns can you learn from them?²

Discuss (8 minutes)

In small groups, discuss the following:

- How are early postcards and today's social media posts that promote cities similar or different? Give examples.
- What information about Cairo seems missing or incomplete in the postcards? Why do you think that is?

Reflect (2 minutes)

How do you usually learn about a city or place? Does your method give a complete or partial picture? Explain.

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

1 Students may note that postcards visually promoted towns—like early social media—showing pride, industry or culture.

2 Postcards often highlight surface features (commerce, geography, landmarks) but omit harder realities, such as racial tensions or Indigenous displacement.