



**VIRAL**

# How to use an archive

Task



## Exercise

The famous revolutionary Friedrich Engels (1820-1895), who together with Karl Marx (1818-1883) developed the so-called scientific socialism and actively participated in the revolution of 1848/49, came from a rich family of textile entrepreneurs in Wuppertal.

I. Write an overview of the history of the Engels family and search for original sources in the city archive.

- a. Search for relevant documents in the city archive and evaluate them.
- b. In addition to the archive documents, research information on the Engels family from secondary sources.
- c. Critically compare the information from both types of sources and use it for your work.
- d. Write your contribution based on the primary and secondary sources you have evaluated.

II. You have now written your contribution on the history of the Engels family. Now please take some thoughts and notes about your work in the city archive.

- a. How did you use the city archive and how did you find access to the sources?
- b. Which other sources of information outside the archive did you use?
- c. Did the information in the primary and secondary sources match?
- d. Describe the differences in the use of an archive and a library.

When you have completed these tasks, you will have learned how to use primary sources in a city archive correctly.





