

What Questions Do We Ask of the Past?

Thinking Like a Historian

Cause & Effect	Change & Continuity	Turning Points	Using the Past	Through Their Eyes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the causes of past events? • Were these causes intentional or accidental? • What were the effects? Short-range? Long-range? • Who or what made change happen? • Who supported change? • Who did not support change? • Which effects were intended? • Which effects were accidental? • How did these events affect people's lives, community and the broader world? • Are these events still affecting us today? • How might different choices have lead to different outcomes in this situation? • Are there similar events happening today? At a previous point in history? • Would people today/you make the same choices these people made? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has changed? • What has remained the same? • Why did these changes occur? • Who benefited from this change? • Who did not benefit from this change? • Was this change necessary for the social group to survive? • How did different people respond to this change? • Was this change gradual or sudden? • Was this change driven by humans or by their environment? • What might have happened if this change had not occurred? • Why did people chose not to change? • Is this change still affecting our choices today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the past decision or action affect future choices? • How did the decisions made or actions taken narrow or eliminate choices for people? • How did the decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives? • What was the specific turning point? How do you know this is the moment of change? • Why were these specific decisions made or actions taken? • Was the outcome what was expected when the decision was made or the action was taken? • What other choices did they have? • Why did they not choose one of these alternatives? • Did the people involved think their decisions or actions were good or bad? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the past help up make sense of the present? • How is the past similar to the present? • How is the past different from the present? • What can we learn from the past? • What parts of our lives/ideas/actions today came from the past? • Are we aware of the history of our ideas/actions? • What do we believe because of the past? • What have we built on from the past to create today? • Have people in the past faced similar situations to us today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did people in that time period view their world? • What factors helped to shape this worldview? • What values, skills and forms of knowledge did people need to succeed? • How is this similar/different from our worldview? • Why do we not have an identical worldview as the people of this time period? • How did their worldview affect their choices and actions? • How would they view our world? • Did any specific events change their worldview?

