

Historical Thinking Skills

Vocabulary

- **ARTIFACT:** A document, photograph, map, etc. Any object that serves as evidence of history.
- **PRIMARY SOURCE:** From the event
- **SECONDARY SOURCE:** About the event

Vocabulary

- **INFERENCE:** Educated guess
- **EVIDENCE:** Clues or proof
- **ANALYZE/EVALUATE:** To figure out the importance of something

Form a Hypothesis

Historical investigations start with a hypothesis just like scientific experiments

Identify

- Definition: Determine the who and what of the source
- LOOK FOR THE **BASICS**

Identify

Questions to Ask Yourself

- What is it?
- What level of source is it? (Primary or Secondary)
- Who created it?
- When was it created?
- Where was it created?



Identify-Utah Studies Text Book

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FROM THE TEAM THAT ASSEMBLED *THE LEGO® MOVIE*

ALWAYS BE YOURSELF.
UNLESS YOU CAN BE
BATMAN.



Identify

Illustration

Identify Example

Determine Context

- Definition: Examine the setting and situation (background information) of the artifact
- SET THE STAGE AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

Determine Context: Example

Determine Context: Example

Determine Context

- “I ran over that guy with my car. It was really fun.”
- “My son will be heading to Germany shortly after he marries.”
- “Sally hid her hands behind her back and crossed her fingers before she answered.”

Determine Context

Questions to Ask Yourself

- What do we know about the artifact's time period and location?
- What was different or similar back then, compared to today?
- What specific background information is *useful* in understanding this artifact?
- Why does this information help you understand this artifact?

Determine Context

Illustration

Check Credibility

- Definition: Find out if you *trust* the artifact
- TEST AND FIND OUT MORE

Check Credibility

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Is the creator reliable? Why or why not?
- Is the artifact reliable? Why or why not?
- What information from the artifact do we trust or can we use? Why?

Check Credibility

Illustration

Check Credibility



Check Credibility

Question: What was daily life like for a soldier in WWII?

Source 1: A journal entry from a U.S. Navy officer about Pearl Harbor.

Source 2: A book written by a famous historian about the U.S. Army's participation in WWII

Which source do you trust more? Why?

Check Credibility

Question: Was Abraham Lincoln a successful President?

Source 1: A southern news article written in 1863 about Abraham Lincoln's leadership during the Civil War.

Source 2: A speech given at a conference held in 2015 to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's presidency.

Which source do you trust more? Why?

Cross Check / Corroboration

- Definition: Compare other artifacts and evidence to find similarities and differences

• **COMPARE**

Cross Check / Corroboration

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Do the artifacts agree or disagree? How and why?
- What are other possible artifacts?
- What documents are most reliable?

Cross Check / Corroboration

Illustration

Cross Check / Corroboration



First Day of School Autobiography

- Write, in detail, the experiences you had on the first day of school this semester

** There will be others reading this, so don't write anything inappropriate or embarrassing **

Make a Claim

- Definition: Make a decision with evidence and PROVE it
- C-E-R: Claim-Evidence-Reasoning

Make a Claim

Questions to Ask Yourself

- What did these artifacts tell us?
What is the bigger picture?
- What information do we believe/trust?
- What conclusions can we make based on the information in these artifacts?

Make a Claim

Illustration

Which is worth more?



Address delivered at the dedication of the
Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth upon this continent a new
nation, conceived in Liberty, and
dedicated to the proposition that
all men are created equal.
Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that proposition is
practical for an American people.
We have come to the great battlefield
of Gettysburg, where our fathers
sought the answer to that question.
It is for us the living, rather than
the dead, that we must dedicate
this ground. It is for us the living
that we must do this. We here
dedicate to the brave men who
here gave their lives that that
nation, so conceived, and so
dedicated, shall have a more perfect
Union, a more abundant Liberty,
and a more glorious Liberty, than
that of any other people on earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19, 1863.