

World History

Intro Notes & Activities

❖ Intro Notes: What is History?

- **Brainstorm:** What is history?

- **What is History?**
 - History is an **account** (story/depiction/interpretation/explanation) of the past.
 - Accounts differ depending on one's **perspective** (point of view/perception/outlook).
 - We rely on **evidence** (proof/indication) to construct accounts of the past.
 - We must question the **reliability** (dependability/trustworthiness) of each piece of evidence.
 - Any **single** (solitary/one) piece of evidence is **insufficient** (not enough) to build a plausible (reasonable/believable/probable/credible) account.

- **Sourcing:** Before reading the document ask yourself:
 - Who wrote this?
 - What is the author's perspective?
 - Why was it written?
 - When was it written?
 - Where was it written?
 - It is reliable? Why? Why not?

- **Close Reading:**
 - What claims does the author make?
 - What evidence does the author use?
 - What language (words, phrases, images, symbols) does the author use to persuade the document's audience?
 - How does the document's language indicate the author's perspective?

- **Contextualization:**
 - When and where was the document created?
 - What was different then? What was the same?
 - How might the circumstances in which the document was created affect its content?

- **Corroboration:**
 - What do other documents say?
 - Do the documents agree? If not, why?
 - What are other possible documents?
 - What documents are most reliable?

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❖ **Activity:** Read- "*Body Ritual Among the Nacirema*"