



When building criteria to measure/compare Historical Significance, one must consider the following as a reference:

1. Prominence at the time:

- How many people bought it?
- Media attention?

2. Consequences:

- Magnitude of impact
 - i. How deep an influence did it have? (Depth)
 - ii. "Richter Scale" – "Small tremors" or "Shake the Foundation"?
- Scope of impact
 - i. How many _____ were affected? (aspects, people, areas etc.)
 - ii. Breadth
- Lasting nature of impact
 - i. How long will the changes have an impact?

3. Profile Today

- Prominence today? (Are there any commemorations eg. Postage Stamps etc.)
- Is it / are they **still** important?
- Media attention?
- Influences?

After analyzing these three areas, it often helps to use a visual spectrum like the one below to help you determine which topic is more significant.



Which of the following inventions is more historically significant?

Hula Hoop

Printing Press

Prominence at the Time

• Million of Hula Hoops sold. • Manufacturers couldn't keep up with demand.	• Not many people had access to printing press. • Only impacted those that could read (very few)
NP _____ X	NP _____ X
VP	VP

Consequences

• •	• •
NI _____	NI _____
LI _____	LI _____

Subsequent Profile

• •	• •
NP _____	NP _____
LP _____	LP _____

FINAL JUDGEMENT?: Explain the "winner" and why it won!

Other topics to try: Who will be more historically significant, Led Zeppelin or the Spice Girls?



How do we piece together history? How do we know what we know about the past? Brainstorm different types of information an historians, archaeologists and anthropologists use to research and write about people and events.



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Answer the following questions and discuss your answers:



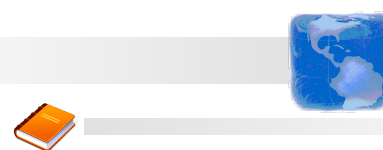
Do all cultures record and pass on their histories the same way? Explain.



How has modern technology affected the recording and the telling of history?



What is the most reliable source of history? Rank the sources of information you brainstormed above (1 being most reliable).



Have you ever thought about what we can learn about history from various primary sources like visuals, quotes, journals and diaries? What is a primary source? The University of Nevada defines primary source as:

a document, speech, or other sort of evidence written, created or otherwise produced during the time under study. Primary sources offer an inside view of a particular event. Examples include:

- **Original documents:** autobiographies, diaries, e-mail, interviews, letters, minutes, news film footage, official records, photographs, raw research data, speeches
- **Creative works:** art, drama, films, music, novels, poetry
- **Relics or artifacts:** buildings, clothing, DNA, furniture, jewelry, pottery

Analyzing primary documents is tricky, because we often find our values do not agree with the view of the document. That's why it is always important to remember that **we are not judging the values of the document from our present perspective**. Instead, we are recognizing them as a window into the mindset /perspectives of the time (past). In order to do this effectively, we should use a few common questions to guide our analysis:

- What is the event/topic of the source?
- What is the author/artists attitude/perspective toward the topic?
- What evidence does the source give us to support this?
- What is the authors purpose? (what point are they trying to make?)
- Who likely shares this perspective?
- What does the source reveal about the worldview at the time?
- What is the context of the source? (time period, historical background etc.)

If we can answer these questions, we can than develop an appreciation for the time period without critiquing the artists perspectives. WE CAN however, critique the results, actions and arguments behind that resulted from the perspective!