

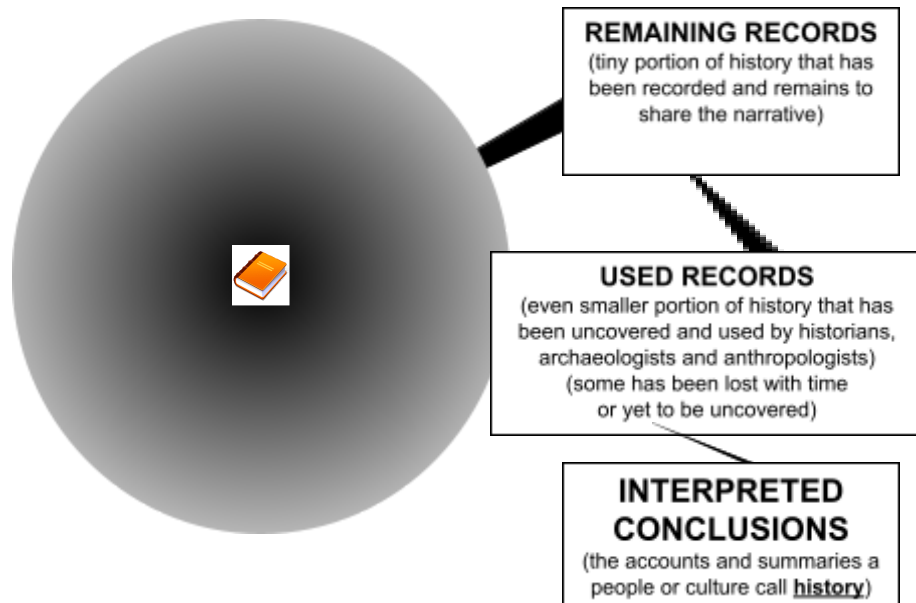


Have you ever thought about what history is? What does the word actually mean? Dictionary.com defines history as follows:

HISTORY: *a continuous, systematic narrative of past events as relating to a particular people, country, period, person, etc., usually written as a chronological account.*

The definition uses the term narrative. A narrative is a story or account of events.

Take a look at the following diagram and discuss the follow-up questions:

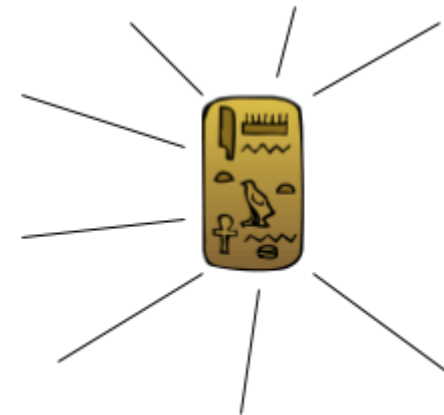


Answer the following questions and discuss your answers:

- Who writes the narratives in the history we study?
- Can there be more than one story of the same event?
- How accurate is the history we study?
- What is a fact? How do we know if something is a fact?
- What criteria do we use?



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:



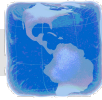
Do all cultures record and pass on their histories the same way? Explain.



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).



Check out this clip from John Stewart’s “The Daily Show”!

Videos/Interviews/Barack Obama Pt. 1 OR do a search for “Barack Obama”.
08/22/07



FOLLOW UP

What opinion does Obama have about what is important in a good leader?

Summarize Obama’s comments on “Habits of Thought”.



Your task is to view the clip from the smash musical hit ***Grease*** (1978). The scene you will view is the ‘*Summer Nights*’ song where the main character Danny and Sandy tell the narrative of their summer relationship with each other. Watch the clip and briefly take down some notes on each character’s perspective of the same event.



FOLLOW UP

Answer the following questions and discuss your answers:

- How were the two narratives the same? Different?
- Which character’s version of history is most reliable? Why?
- What can this clip and activity teach us about history?