

Chapter One: History and the Historian

This chapter deals with what is history, how one studies history, and how things in the past influences life in the present. We also look at how things such as artifacts, such as old pictures, can help us learn about what life was like years ago.

Key Vocab:

History

Collective past

Individual past

Historical method

Primary Source

Secondary Source

Key Topics:

1. Be able to give a definition of history (pg. 10-12)
2. What is individual past? (p. 13)
3. Explain what the term collective past means. (pg. 14)
4. List and explain the four steps in the historical method. (pg. 15)
5. What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source? (pg. 16)
6. Be able to label items as either a primary source or secondary source. (pg. 16)
7. List the 7 sources of information (pg. 17-18)

❖ Many things can tell us about our past. Things such as old documents, photographs, art work, stories, artifacts and even music tell us about the past from a given area. They can tell us

about how people made a living, what clothes they wore, their entertainment, what they ate -- just to name a few.

When looking at artefacts keep in mind things such as:

- ❖ How old is this item?
- ❖ If it is a picture, think about things such as who is in the picture, what is the physical setting, what are people wearing, what are they doing.....answers to these questions can tell us a lot about the past.
- ❖ If it is an artifact, think about what is it used for, was it man-made or machine made? Are there any marks on it (name engraved)? did it need electricity? Answers to these questions can tell us a lot about the past.

What is the difference between individual past and collective past?

- ❖ **Individual past:** your individual past is made up of the major life events and experiences in your life that shape you and your memories. It is the personal history of an individual. Who you are, where you come from, what has influenced you are the important parts of your history.
- ❖ **Collective past:** this is the collective history of a group of people. When you examine pieces of information that make up a memory of a people, you are examining their collective past.

The Historical Method

- Historians are professionals who investigate and interpret the past.
- Just as crime scene investigators use a specific method to find out answers about a crime they are investigating, historians use a specific method to find out answers to historical questions that they are investigating.
- This method is called the **historical method** and it has four major steps.

<p>Step One: Pose a good historical question</p>	<p>-ask questions such as the 5 Ws and How? -what questions can be researched?</p>
<p>Step Two: Collect reliable information</p>	<p>-what sources are available? -which sources have the information you need? -how reliable is the source (are they biased?)</p>
<p>Step Three: Organize and evaluate the information</p>	<p>- how will you organize your information? - what patterns or ideas come out from the information?</p>
<p>Step Four: Interpret the information and present conclusions</p>	<p>- what conclusion(s) can you draw from your research? - how will you give credit to the sources of information you used? (ex. books/interviews/websites)</p>

Sources of Information

- Information can be collected from many different sources such as the school's LRC, the Rooms, and web sites such as the Heritage Newfoundland web site.
- The information can be divided into two different categories: primary and secondary sources
- A **primary source** is a first hand account made at the time that an event occurs
- A **secondary source** is an interpretation of an event based on information gathered from primary sources.

So where can you find information?

1. Libraries and Museum ex. The QE2 , the Rooms
2. Archives ex. provincial archives in the Rooms
3. Monuments ex. Echos of Valour,
4. Historic Sites ex. Red Bay. L'Anse aux Meadows
5. Internet ex. www.heritage.nf.ca
6. Oral history ex. stories, songs
7. Literary and artistic expressions ex. Plays like the Trinity pageant, Movies like Random Passage, paintings, sculptures, etc.