

YEAR ONE / SECTION ONE

THE WORK OF THE HISTORIAN

Why do we study History?

We study History for two reasons – to learn about the past and to learn from the mistakes of the past

A PRIMARY SOURCE;

Evidence, which survives from the past, which tells us about the past.

Examples include the remains of buildings, manuscripts or diaries, for example the **Diary of Anne Frank**.

A SECONDARY SOURCE;

Information about the past, produced by people who did not witness the events in question. Examples include school textbook or the movie “Michael Collins”.

Bias;

To find out if a source is reliable, historians have to examine the opinion of the person who made the source. People show bias when they deliberately select only that evidence which supports their own point of view and exclude any evidence which does not.

Propaganda;

Propaganda is used to manipulate the thoughts and feelings of people to convince them that an opinion is the correct one. It uses information which is deliberately biased. The media and the internet can be used to make propaganda.

A Dig;

A carefully organised and planned excavation of an archaeological site.

- (a) Survey the site to find out the size, the shape of the site and the type of soil it contains.
- (b) Divide the site in a grid and number each section of the grid.
- (c) The tools that would be used include shovels, axes, brushes and cameras.

ARTEFACT;

The name given to objects from the past, found on an archaeological site.

STRATIGRAPHY;

Layers of remains are found one on top of another. The oldest remains are found at the bottom and the newest are found at the top. By measuring the depth at which an artefact is found we can work out roughly how old it is.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY;

For measuring the age of artefacts made of wood. By examining the annual growth rings on a tree we can work out how old the tree was when it died and what the climate was like when the tree lived. This can lead us to the age of any artefact made using the wood of the tree.

CARBON 14 DATING;

All living things contain Carbon 14 and when they die the Carbon 14 in them decays at a known rate. By measuring the amount of Carbon 14 left in the remains we can work out how old the remains are.

Sources' used include; "Door to the Past" R. Quinn & D O Leary, Folens 2002 and "Focus on the Past", G. Brockie & R Walsh Gill & McMillan 1997.