

NOTES / QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER: *WHAT IS HISTORY?*
WHAT ROLES DO HISTORIANS HAVE IN SOCIETY?
WHY SHOULD WE STUDY HISTORY?

I. WHAT IS HISTORY?

- *A record of the past*
- *The memory of things said and done*
- *A past that can vanish when voices fade*
- *A story that is never complete*
- *Stories that are told in bits and pieces – tales, myths, clay, cloth, wood, metal*
- *Someone's point of view – selective, distorted by power or self-interest, false, misleading*

HISTORY IS THE STUDY OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS OVER TIME.

HISTORY IS EVERYTHING MANKIND HAS THOUGHT, SAID, OR DONE.

HISTORY IS A STUDY OF THE PAST.

HOW DOES HISTORY CONTINUE TO CHANGE?

II. WHAT ROLES DO HISTORIANS HAVE IN SOCIETY?

Historians are the collective keepers of society's memory.

Historians study and interpret the records of everything mankind has thought, said, or done. They study primary sources and write their interpretations as secondary sources.

Examples?

ARE HISTORIANS IMPORTANT IN SOCIETY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

III. WHY SHOULD WE STUDY HISTORY?

- *To learn lessons from the past*
- *To better understand the present*
- *To become more tolerant of others*
- *To secure a better future*
- *To continue American culture and democracy*
- *To gain skills such as research skills and critical thinking*
- *To earn a high school diploma*
- *To just have fun and intellectual pleasure*