

# Historical Skills

*Use this worksheet to remember the different skills that are important to studying history, and how they help us study the past.*

1. **Contextualize** (Geographical, Historical, Cultural):
  - Think about where an artifact/person comes from or where an event happened. What do we know about the place of origin and the cultures that create it? If we compare this to another time in history, what does it tell us about human growth?
2. **Corroborate** Evidence from Multiple Sources
  - Even though one artifact or source may tell us one thing, it is never enough to be sure of our findings. Use other sources or artifacts from the same person/event/place to legitimize your assumptions.
3. **Consider** Bias and Perspective
  - People have different opinions and see the same events in different ways. It is important that we always consider the other side of the story and what possible bias our storytellers could bring to their narratives.
4. Determine **Credibility**
  - Can we trust the source of our information? How do we know that this artifact or source is the real thing? What makes the person telling this story an expert in the field?
5. **Compare, Contrast, Connect** information across different cultures and time periods
  - How does this artifact/event/person differ from other cultures of the same time period? Or how does it differ from the same culture of different time periods? Comparing and connecting can give us clues about how we have changed as a culture.
6. Determine **Causality and Consequences**
  - Which events or people caused others to happen? What were the consequences of a particular event? Sometimes one event causes many others, or there are many different causes to one event. Part of history is deciding which events did or did not cause others.
7. Make **Claims** based on Evidence
  - Based on what we see in an event/artifact/source, we make claims about the importance of an event, the cause of another, the culture it was from, etc. That evidence, and how we use it, is our proof that we are correct.
8. **Construct** Narratives about the Past
  - With our claims, and using all of these skills listed above, we can tell a continuous story of the past, that can tell us where we came from, and warn us of our future actions.