

What Is History?

What is history, and why should we study it?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

- evidence
- point of view
- primary source
- historical interpretation
- secondary source

READING NOTES

Read Sections 2 to 3. After reading each section, complete the following activities in your notebook.

Section 2

Copy the following table into your notebook. Use the information from the reading to write a definition for each term in the table. Then explain how each term was represented during the in-class activity.

	Definition	In-Class Activity
Evidence		
Primary source		
Secondary source		
Point of view		
Historical interpretation		

Section 3

What are the four reasons for studying history? List and rank them from 1 to 4—number 1 represents the reason that is most important and number 4 represents the reason that is least important. Write a brief explanation of why you chose your top ranking.

PROCESSING

Create a timeline of your life from the time you were born to the age you are now.

1. Draw a timeline, with a mark for each year of your life.
2. Use one color to write the three most important events of your life on the timeline. Label each event with your age and a brief description of what happened and why it was important.
3. Ask family members what they think are the three most important events of your life. Use a different color to place those events on the timeline. Label each event with your age and a brief description of what happened and why they think it was important.
4. Beneath the timeline, write a reflection that describes the similarities and differences between the events you chose and those your family chose. Explain why you think you and your family members interpreted the past similarly or differently.