

History Bringing it to Life Year 7 – 8

Student Questioning Tool



Ask these questions to help you think, work and process like a historian.

What are the stories?

What information is available about this?
 What is recorded about the past?
 Where is it recorded?
 What do we already know about this?
 What do people say about the past?
 What do other people or sources say about the past?
 What has been collected, conserved or interpreted from the past?
 Is there a story about this from another geographical place?

How do people communicate about this period of time?
 What are the main ideas they talk about?
 What are the new terms and vocabulary we need to understand?
 What are some of the key historical events from this time?
 What are some of the key developments from this time?
 What period of time does this belong to?
 When did this happen?
 How long ago is that?
 Was else was happening around that time?
 How can you sequence this?

What questions do we have?

What does this make you wonder?
 What interests you?
 What confuses you?

What is missing?
 What else do you want/need to know?
 What contradicts what you already knew?

Cause & Effect

What caused this? What happened next?
 What effects did this have?
 Who did this impact on?
 What influenced this?
 What were the long and short term consequences of this?

Continuity & Change

How has this changed?
 How has this remained the same?
 What changed because of this?
 What are the patterns?

Significance

What do people most remember about this?
 What does this reveal about the past?
 What changed as a result of this?
 Who is this significant for?
 How many people were affected by this?
 How relevant is this to the present?
 Which stories are important? Why?

What can we use to find out?

What evidence do you need to inform your inquiry?
 What information is available about this?
 What is recorded about the past?
 Where is it recorded?
 What has been collected, conserved or interpreted about this?

Where are the collections and interpretations about this?
 What is available online?
 What evidence is there?
 What are the primary sources?
 What are the secondary sources?

How can we use this to find out?

How can you analyse this?
 Who wrote or created this?
 For what purpose was it written or created?
 What does the language used tell you about the attitudes and opinions of the author?
 What is a fact? What is an opinion?
 Whose opinion or point of view is this?

Is it one sided?
 If it is one sided can this be used as evidence of values, attitudes and power structures that prevailed in the past?
 Whose perspective is being presented?
 What other perspectives are there?
 How can you use this as evidence to inform your inquiry?
 What is contestable?

How can we make sense of this?

What can you conclude from this?
 What does this reveal about points of view, attitudes and values in the past?
 What changed as a result of this?
 What are the legacies of this?
 Who was/is this significant for?
 How many people were affected by this?

How long did this affect people for?
 How relevant is this to the present?
 How does this help you answer your inquiry questions?
 What other questions do you have?
 Can you generalise this?
 What does this mean for the future?
 What action will you take?

How can we communicate this?

What will you describe?
 What will you explain?
 What do you want to help others understand?
 Which perspectives do you want to communicate?
 Who is your audience?
 What is the best way to communicate this?

What language is appropriate for this text and context?
 How does a historian use language in this text or context?
 How will you support the conclusions you are communicating based on evidence?
 How will you acknowledge the sources you have used?