

“What do Historians Do?”

I. What is History?!

A. Why Study History? *What types of things can history reveal about the past?*

1. _____ is the study of people and events of the past
 - a. explores how things _____ and how they _____ the same
2. people who study history are known as _____
 - a. examine the _____ of past events
 - b. look for the _____ of those same events
 - c. ask a lot of _____
3. History explains why things are the way they are.
4. Learning about the past helps us in several ways:
 - a. give a better understanding of the _____
 - b. helps makes decisions for the _____
 - c. helps see how we fit into _____
 - d. teaches us who we are

B. Measuring Time *What are historical periods?*

1. How many years?
 - a. 10 years = _____
 - b. 100 years = _____
 - c. 1,000 years = _____
2. Periods of History: Historians divide the past into chunks of time called _____.
 - a. _____ = before people starting writing
 - b. circa 3,500 BC to 500 AD = _____
 - c. 500AD – 1400AD = _____
 - d. 1400AD to present = _____
3. Calendars are a system for arranging _____ in order
 - a. more than _____ different calendar systems, often based on _____ or _____
 - b. _____ calendar starts “when the world was created” more than 5,000 yrs ago
 - c. _____ calendar starts when Muhammad arrived in Mecca in 622AD
 - d. _____ calendar developed by Julius Caesar had _____ days
 - e. _____ calendar developed in 1582; based birth of _____

4. Dating Events

a. Gregorian Calendar labels years with BC and AD

i. "BC" = _____

- also known as "BCE" = Before Common Era

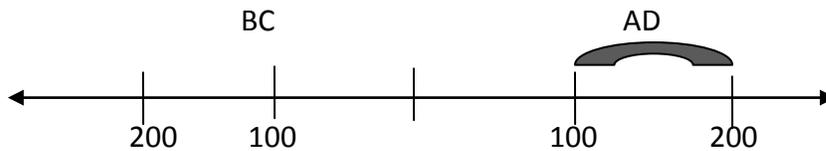
ii. "AD" = _____ which means "in the year of the Lord"

- also known as "CE" - Common Era

b. Counting the years - how many years between the dates?!

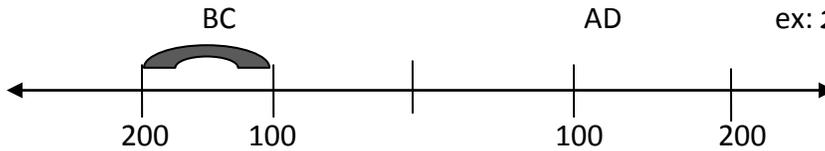
i. if comparing two AD dates, subtract

ex: 100AD to 200AD is 100 years



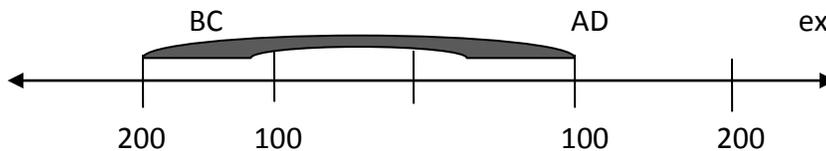
ii. if comparing two BC dates, subtract

ex: 200BC to 100BC is 100 years



iii. if comparing one AD and one BC date, ADD the years!

ex: 200BC to 100AD is 300 years!!



C. Digging Up the Past *What do students of prehistory look for?*

1. Types of Historical Study

a. _____ studies the past by looking at people and their lives

i. depends strongly on _____, objects made by people in the past

b. _____ studies the past through _____

i. fossils are remains of plants and _____ preserved through time

c. anthropology studies human _____ and how it changes over time

i. uses both artifacts and fossils

2. Human Discoveries

a. 1974: bones of a "human ancestor" found in _____ by Robert Johanson

i. *Australopithicus afarensis* dates back more than 3 million years

b. our species is _____ which means "wise man"

I. How does a historian work?

A. What is evidence? *What types of evidence do historians use to understand the past?*

1. _____ shows proof or an indication that something is true
 - a. can be artifacts, fossils, written documents, etc.
2. _____ sources are firsthand pieces of evidence.
 - a. written or created by people who saw the event; or
 - b. made during a particular time period; or
 - c. may include soldier's uniform, a stone age tool, historical documents, etc.
3. _____ sources are created AFTER the event.
 - a. written or created by people that were NOT there and did NOT witness the event
 - b. often based on primary sources
 - C. may include textbooks, biographies, websites, encyclopedias
4. Reliable Sources
 - a. can I trust this information?
 - b. who was it written for? Why was it written?
 - c. _____ of _____ is a person's "general attitude" about people or issues
 - d. _____ is an "unreasoned, emotional judgment" about people and events

B. Writing about History *How do we write about history?*

1. Examine evidence and make inferences
 - a. inferences = choosing the most likely explanation for the facts
2. new researched published in _____ journals
 - a. _____ = dealing with academic learning and research
3. drawing _____
 - a. conclusions are final decisions reached by reasoning with facts and evidence
4. some historians disagree over _____
 - a. interpretations are explanations on the meaning of something
 - b. can be different based many factors including
 - i. prior knowledge
 - ii. personal perspective
 - iii. other things as well!