

# HISTORICAL THINKING

*When you examine Primary and Secondary sources consider the following:*

## PRIMARY SOURCES

| <i>Questions to Consider</i>  | <i>Consider the following</i>  |
|---|--|
| Who wrote/ produced the source?                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Did the person witness or participate in the event?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do they have special insight into the event that could give us a better understanding?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What was this person's occupation that may influence their account?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What was this person's religion, political stance, nationality, ethnicity, social class (etc.) that may influence their account?</li> </ul> |
| Why was it written or produced?                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Did this person know this information would be seen or read? (Example: newspaper or book)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What was the intention of the source? To provide factual information, to influence people, to criticize someone or something or to intentionally mislead people?</li> </ul>  |
| What time period was this produced?                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How does the time period influence the person's thoughts or actions?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What did most people believe during this time period?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Was their thoughts and actions similar to others at the time?</li> </ul>  |
| Are there other sources available to corroborate (prove) its details? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there additional evidence to support what the person wrote or said?</li> </ul>  |

## SECONDARY SOURCES

| <i>Questions to Consider</i>  | <i>Consider the following</i>   |
|---|---|
| What type of source is it? Why was it produced?                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Why was this source created? Was the source intended to inform people, persuade people, or manipulate people?</li> </ul>  |
| Is the author biased or one sided?                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What is the author's religion, political stance, nationality, ethnicity, social class (etc.) that may influence their information?</li> </ul>   |
| Did the author get all the facts rights? What sources did they use? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where did the author get their information? Are these sources trustworthy or are they biased or one-sided or incomplete?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there other sources available to support their accounts?</li> </ul>  |
| Are they credible? Can we trust them?                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is this person an expert in their field or have a lot of experience about this topic?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do they have reputations of being trustworthy?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Did they use multiple accounts to inform their work? Do they accurately cite their sources and/ or discuss their methods of they they obtained the information?</li> </ul> |
| What time period was this produced?                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How does the time period influence the person's thoughts or actions?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What did most people believe during this time period?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Was their thoughts and actions similar to others at the time?</li> </ul>   |

