

Thinking like a Historian

What are the questions you want to answer using the sources?

Is the source reliable?

Can we rely on the source to give us factual information on the past?

Who wrote/ made the source?

Was this person there at the time?

Are they trustworthy?

Or was it made years later?

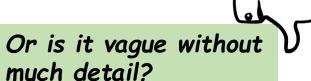
Is it by someone who is biased/ doesn't know what happened?

Is the source rich?

Will the source give us lots of useful information about what it was really like at the time?

Does it contain useful information?

Is there a lot of detail to help you answer your question?



Is the source relevant?

Does the source relate to the time period and place that we are looking at?

When was it written? Was it before or after this time?

Does it have the right information to help you to answer your question?



Historians describe:

What is it?

What can you see?

How old is it?

Who made/wrote it?

What is it made from?

Historians analyse:

Where do you think it came from?

What you think it was used for?

What does it tell us about the past?

Why do you think it was made/written?

Historians evaluate:

Is it useful?

How reliable is it?

How rich is it?

How relevant is it?

Does it help me to answer my question?

Is it a primary or a secondary source?

Primary Sources:

There were made or written during the time you are learning about.

Secondary Sources:

There were made or written after the time you are learning about.