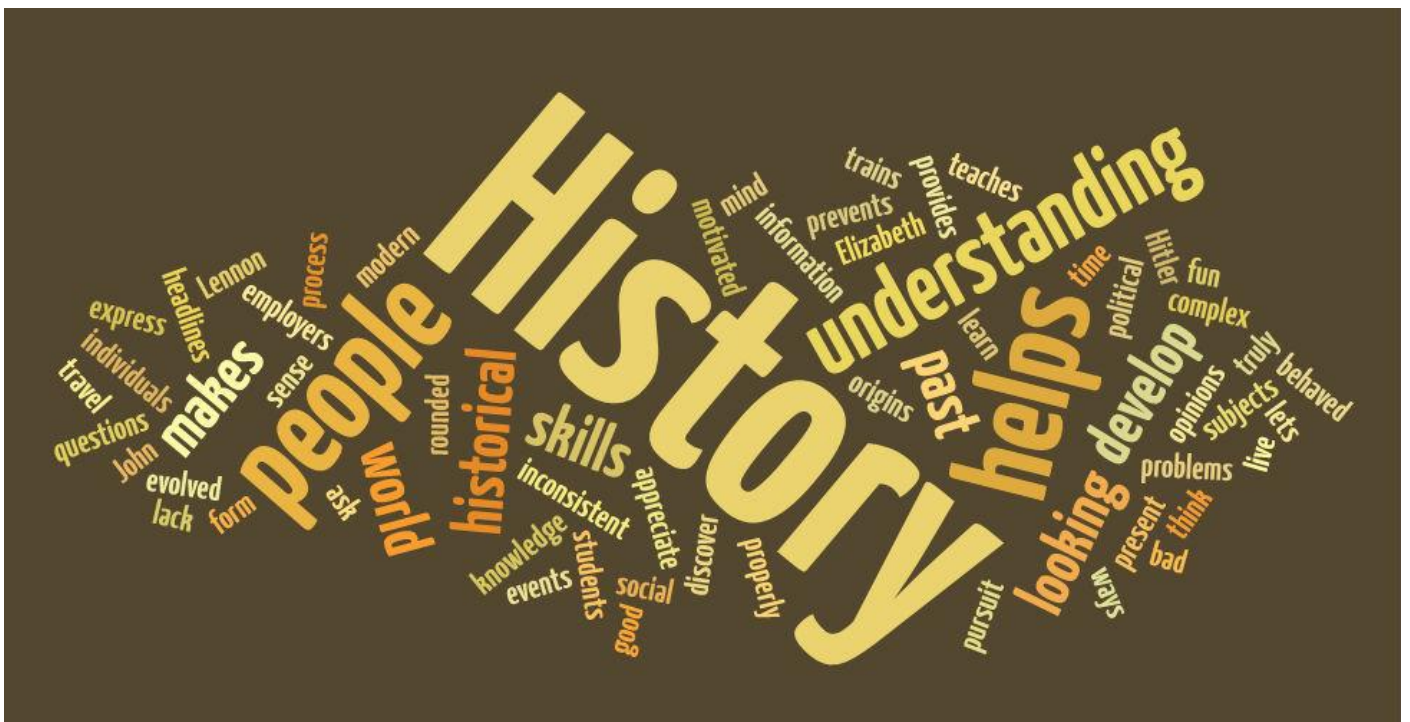


Y6-7 Transition

History Workbook



Name: _____

Primary school: _____

Welcome to History!

History is the study of things that happened in the past. It is an important subject to study so that we can understand important events that have happened in our country and around the world. We will study what happened, who was involved, the reasons why things happened, and the effects these major events had on the human race and our environment. By understanding the events of the past we can gain a better understanding of the present, and even the future! You are all about to begin your journey as an Historian, which will require you to learn some important and challenging skills. The aim of this booklet is to introduce you to these skills and to put them to the test! Good luck, and enjoy!

What do you already know?

Before we start, we need to know what you have already covered at primary school. For each of the skills or topics, **tick** to show whether you learned about it at primary school or not. Be completely honest!

Skills	Did it!	Not sure...	Didn't do it
Chronology (putting dates in order)			
Using sources (evidence)			
Cause and consequence			
Writing structured answers			
Topics	Did it!	Not sure...	Didn't do it
British history			
World history (not Britain)			
Famous people from the past			
Local history			

Thank you! Let's move on...

What will we be learning about today?

Today you will be learning about a time period called **The American West**. The American West was the name given to the USA before it became the country we know of today. At the start of the 1800s, most of America was inhabited by Native Americans – not white people. As the century progressed, white settlers moved across America and Native Americans were forced to move. Today you will use some historical skills to learn about some of the main events of this time period.

Task 1 – Chronology




Chronology is an important historical skill which involves putting dates and events into the order in which they happened. This is called putting them in **chronological order**. See if you can put these American West events in order!

Events in random order	Events in chronological order
1848 – Gold is discovered in California	
1864 – 130 innocent natives are killed at the ‘Sand Creek Massacre’	
1869 – The first railroad is built across America	
1834 – A border is set up to divide the Native Americans from white settlers	
1890 – All land in America now belongs to US government	
1849 – ‘The Gold Rush’ (Lots of settlers move west to find gold)	
1876 – Chief Sitting Bull and his tribe win the Battle of the Little Big Horn	
1803 – Two American explorers begin exploring the American West	
1866-68 – Chief Red Cloud goes to war with the government and wins	
1836 – The ‘Oregon Trail’ is set up to allow people to travel across America	

Task 2 – Source inference

Source inference is another important skill that you will need as an historian. When we study the past, we have to use **sources** (things written or produced in the past) to **infer** (suggest) what something or someone was like.

Look at each of the sources on the left, and write down 2 things you could infer about **Native Americans** from each one. The first one has been started for you.

Source	What can you infer about Native Americans?
A 	<p>1. <i>I can infer that they lived in tents, rather than in houses</i></p> <p>2. <i>I can also infer that they wore clothes that were different to ours</i></p>
B 	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
C <i>“The natives are not like us. They live in tents called ‘tipis’ and move around to follow the buffalo herds.” - Written by a white explorer in 1822</i>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
D  Native tribe performing a dance for the ‘Great Spirit’	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>

Task 3 – Source analysis

As well as **inferring** things from sources, you must also be able to **analyse** them.

Source analysis is when we look at a source and decide the following things:

- **Content:** What does it tell us?
- **Context:** How accurate (true) do we think it is?
- **Provenance:** Who made it and why? Does this make it more or less useful to us?

Here is an example below of a source that has been analysed:

Source A – From the diary of a white settler (1850)

‘These Natives are savage people. They live in tents and move around, rather than settling into a normal home. They do not believe in God, but instead worship their own ‘Great Spirit’ by dancing and performing strange chants and dances. They clearly do not have the same level of intelligence and civilisation as the whites, and therefore it is our duty to take their land and to teach them how to live like we do’

Content: *Source A tells us that the natives moved around and lived in tents. It also tells us that the Natives had their own type of religion, in which they worshipped a Great Spirit rather than God. It also tells us that white settlers felt that they were more intelligent than the Natives.*

Context: *Some of the things in Source A are accurate. We know that the natives lived in tipis and we also know that they believed in a Great Spirit. However, the source suggests white people were more intelligent which we know isn’t true.*

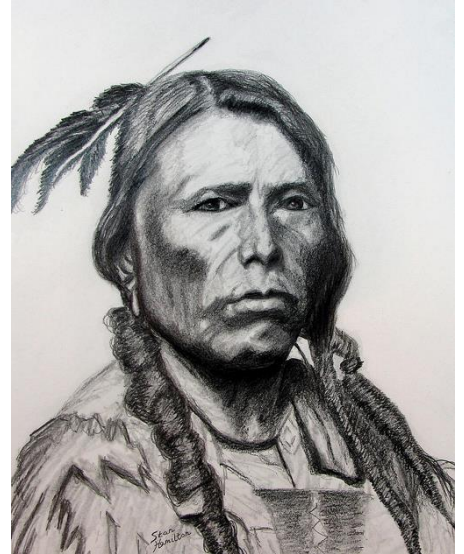
Provenance: *Source A was written by a white settler, which could make the source less useful as it is a one-sided view of the natives. The source was written in 1850, when many people were moving west to find gold, and this might explain why the person is talking about ‘taking their land’.*

Your turn!

You are now going to **analyse** Source B. Follow the same process as the example does with Source A. Do your best to include as much detail as possible!

Source B – From a speech made by Crazy Horse, a famous Native American Warrior

‘The white men promised us we could live in peace, but they have broken their promises many times. Now they take our land for farming, for gold and for their towns. We have lived on this land for thousands of years, and now we are being forced to give up our land or be killed! I will not sit by and let this happen, it is time for us to fight back!’



Content:

Context:

Provenance:

Task 4 – Cause and consequence

When studying an important event, it is important for historians to know the difference between **causes** and **consequences**.

Causes are the reasons why something happens. These come BEFORE an event.

Consequences are the things that happen because of something. These come AFTER an event

For each of these passages, highlight the **causes** in one colour and the **consequences** in another. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. Native Americans and white settlers had very different beliefs about religion. White settlers believed God created the earth for humans to live on, whereas Native Americans believed the earth was their mother and no-one could own land. This led to disagreements and wars between the whites and the natives.

2. Gold was discovered in California in 1848. As a result, in 1849 hundreds of thousands of white settlers travelled west to search for gold. This meant thousands of Native Americans were forced to move away from California, and some began attacking the gold miners.

3. In 1869 the first railroad across America was built. It connected the cities in the East to the land in the West. This allowed white settlers to move more easily across America, but also it also scared the buffalo herds which meant the natives couldn't hunt like they used to.

4. In 1876 the Native Americans won a battle against the US government at a place called 'The Little Big Horn'. The battle was a famous victory for the Natives. However, it made the US government angry and they began treating the natives even worse than before.

Research tasks!

Research is when historians use different sources of information to find out more about the past. It is one of the most important historical skills you will need! Use books or the internet to complete at least one of the research tasks below:

Task A – Label the buffalo

Native Americans used the buffalo for all sorts of things once they had killed them. Find out what each part of the buffalo was used for and label the diagram below!



Task B – Wanted!

In the Wild West there were lots of famous outlaws. These were criminals who spent their lives on the run from the law. Research a famous outlaw and complete the 'wanted' poster below! Include as much detail as you can.

WANTED

Name

For Acts of _____

Physical Description: _____

Personality Traits: _____

Also known as (AKA): _____

Specific acts include: _____

Positive or negative consequences for these acts include: _____

Suspect last seen: _____ Favorite hangout(s) _____

If found, please _____

Skills showdown! – What have you learned?

It's time to see what you've learned! Using what you have learned, complete the sentences below:

Historians study...

Chronology means...

Sources are...

Inferring means...

Content means...

Context means...

Provenance means...

Causes are...

Consequences are...

The American West is...

“Check your answers with a friend, or check back through the booklet once you're done!”



