<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1077733601>

Name: Date:

APWH9, Rerick Period:

**3 Bullet Points**- What are three common stories told about the history of the United States? Record your answer in the box below.

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What is *history*? Record your answer in the box below.

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**Excerpt from podcast *Throughline:* “A Story of Us?”**

By Ramtin Arablouei & Rund Abdelfatah

| **Minute 0:20 - 1:15**  READER: The shape of the narrative is what it all comes down to in the end. History deals in facts, of course, but in history, those facts fundamentally serve a narrative. When we construct our story, we are inventing ourselves. That's what we were doing in those caves long ago, gathered around the fire, passing on to our children what we remembered about our grandparents, reminiscing about life-changing adventures we'd shared, arguing about which of us really killed the bear and drawing conclusions about the meaning of life from the stars we saw above, for when ancient folks looked up at the night sky, they didn't just see stars. They saw constellations. They said, there's a bear. And they said, hey; look - a mighty hunter. And their companions nodded. And as long as everybody in the group saw the bear and the mighty hunter, there they were.   * Tamim Ansary, "The Invention Of Yesterday"   **Minute 3:50-3:55**  ARABLOUEI: Every American story - well, who gets to decide what's included, what's left out and what ultimately shapes our American story, our global story as human beings on this earth? Some people look up at the night sky and see stars. Some see a bear and a mighty hunter. But who's to say? And what interpretation is passed down to future generations? What do you see?  **Minute 6:40-8:36**  ABDELFATAH: Tamim Ansary's book poses a new fundamental question - what if the real story of human history is the story itself?  TAMIM ANSARY: History is composed of facts the way that a cathedral is composed of bricks, let's say. But the bricks are not the cathedral. The cathedral is something about the way the bricks are put together. So history, in that sense, is a narrative, is a story, and I am undertaking to tell that story. And it's not the only way to tell it, but it's maybe one way.  ARABLOUEI: I like to think of Tamim as kind of a philosopher of history, someone who studies and writes history, but also writes about history, thinks about what it really is and what it's made up of. And on *Throughline*, that's the kind of thing we're always thinking about behind the scenes. We look for connections, try to discover the ways the stories we tell interact with one another across time and place. We're always asking what stories should be told, who should tell them and why these moments from the past matter, why they're relevant to us today. And through that, we also start to see that history always boils down to one thing - the suffix of the word itself, story.  ABDELFATAH: And that's what Tamim tries to capture in his book, "The Invention Of Yesterday." It's a global history focused on the stories different civilizations have invented about themselves across time, stories that tell thousands of years of experiences and encounters, memories, memoirs that became history because to Tamim, history is really just a story we're telling one another, which obviously resonates with us.  ANSARY: I'm trying to tell a single story that's the human story.  ABDELFATAH: And to do that, Tamim is searching for a history, a narrative that the whole world feels seen in, a past we can all agree on and claim.  ANSARY: I think there's a global “*we”* that is trying to be born, and that inevitably will be born 'cause we can't all just be in the same space without eventually speaking the same language. That's what humans do. But if you're trying to tell the story of this emerging global we, then you have to look past the details. |
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Revisit the question: What is *history*? Record your answer in the box below.

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| **Minute 13:19-15:00**  ARABLOUEI: Those stories depend on your point of view. Where do you come from? What do you see from where you are? Who's telling you about how the world works and what the world even is?  (SOUNDBITE OF MUSIC)  ARABLOUEI: Can you tell us a little bit about your story? You know, we all have a story. Sort of where do you come from? Where'd you grow up? And how'd you become interested in writing history?  ANSARY: My father was an Afghan. My mother was an American. We could go a little deeper into that. My father was an Afghan from an eminent cultural, literary, intellectual family in Afghanistan - the poorest country on earth, you know, from some people's point of view. So he was at the top of the heap of the bottom of the heap. My mother was an American who was from a family of Finnish immigrants. You know, they were working class poor. And my mother and father met at the end of the depression. It's a very complex tapestry. And when I work out my own story that has unfolded through my journey through the cultural universe of the world today, the anomaly of my parents is always a generating factor of the plot, so to speak.  So I grew up in Afghanistan. I lived there until I was 16, and then I came to the States and I've lived here ever since. So what ends up being a mainspring of my little story is actually just one thread in a bigger fabric that is history. So that's how come I write these things that I write. |
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Bullet Points: What are different factors that may impact a person’s ability to tell their story or be a part of the larger story?

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| **Prepwork for tomorrow:** What is ***your story?*** Go home and ask your parents, or call up your grandma or your uncle, or your moms best friend and ask them to tell you about *YOUR* story. Where did *YOU* come from? How did you end up here? What are some defining features of your descendents’ pasts that make up your story?  Come prepared to talk about this tomorrow. Record notes from your conversations with those you talk to below. Pay attention to:   * Who was involved * What major events were involved * Where do you/ your descendants come from? * When did things happen? When did your descendents move/ migrate; ect. * Why/how did your parents/ descendants do the things they did? Why/how are you here in New York at Staten Island Tech right now? |
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