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The Story of the Past

Topics covered

- What is history?
- Why do we learn history?
- Timelines in history
- Periods of history

Find out about your family!

Copy this paragraph in your notebook. Fill the blanks with the help of your parents or any elder in your family. Add photographs or drawings.

My name is I was born on (date) in (place)

My parents are and They were married on
in

My mother's parents are and They were married on
..... in

My father's parents are and They were married on
..... in

When you find out these things, you are finding out about the past. When you look at old photographs of your family, you are looking at the past.

Discuss

TP
SI

Did you look at old family photos? What did you see? Do think we should keep these photographs safely? Why? Share this in class.



Looking at old family photographs

WHAT IS HISTORY?

When you find out about past events in your family, or look at old family pictures, you are learning your family **history**.

History tells us about the past. All people have a history. Places like buildings, cities and countries also have a history. In history we learn about:

- The events that happened in the past, to people and to places.
- Why the events of the past happened.
- **Famous** people and the lives of **ordinary** people who lived in the past.



A famous person—Mahatma Gandhi, who fought for India's freedom



An ordinary person—A young boy

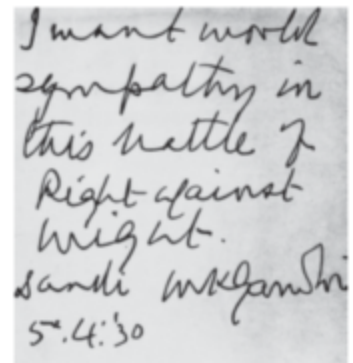
When we learn about the past in this way, we are learning history.

WHY DO WE LEARN HISTORY?

There are many reasons why we learn history.

1. Learning about the past is interesting. For example, history tells us that earlier there was no Internet, so people wrote letters to each other on paper. These were sent through the

post office and took several days to reach.



A handwritten letter by Mahatma Gandhi



A horse-drawn carriage, called a tonga

2. History helps us to understand how people of earlier times lived. For example, when we study history, we learn that in earlier times there were no cars, trains, buses or aeroplanes. When people travelled over land, they walked or travelled in vehicles drawn (pulled) by animals.

3. History helps us to understand many things in our world today. For example, when we study history we learn why we celebrate August 15 as Independence Day.

Did you Know?



A long time ago the people of Greece had many different gods and goddesses including Clio, the goddess for history. This tells us that they thought history was very important.



An Independence Day card

TIMELINES IN HISTORY

When you learnt about events that had happened in your family, you also learnt when they happened. In the same way, when we learn about events in history we learn when they happened.

Earlier you learnt that a **timeline** is useful because it tells us the order in which the events happened. Look carefully at this timeline.

1869	Mahatma Gandhi is born.
1947	India becomes independent.
1950	India becomes a republic.
1975	India launches its first satellite, <i>Aryabhata</i>
2013	India sends a space mission to the planet Mars.

From this timeline we can tell that Mahatma Gandhi, one of the main leaders of India's struggle for freedom, was born many years before India became independent. In fact, he was an old man of 78 years when India became free. We also learn that India's first satellite launch and then the space mission to Mars happened several years after India's independence. We are able to tell that after Independence, India's space missions got better and better.

Timelines are important when we study history because they help us to understand when things happened.

Think and answer

Is our world only the present or does it include the past also?



PERIODS OF HISTORY

Time is continuous but people have divided it into days, months and years. Like time, history is also continuous. Some **historians** (people who study history) think that it is easy to understand when events happened if history is divided into 'periods'. These are very long stretches of time that lasted for many hundreds of years. The periods into which historians divide the study of history are:

- The ancient or the very old period
- The medieval or the middle period
- The modern or the more recent period

Later, when you learn more history, you will see that though the past has been divided like this, all parts of the world were not in a particular 'period of history' at the same time.



Values and Life Skills

Think about these questions:

- Why do we need to study history?
- Why is it important to know about the past?

REMEMBER



1. History is the study of the people and events of the past.
2. We study history because it is interesting, it helps us to understand the past and it also helps us to understand today's world.
3. Timelines help to understand the order in which events happened.
4. Historians have divided the past into three periods.



WORDS

History	the study of past events and people
Famous	known by many people
Ordinary	not special
Historian	a person who studies history
Period	a particular length of time; your class periods are short but historical periods lasted for many hundreds of years.



EXERCISES



A. Fill in the blanks.

1. When we look at old family photographs, we are looking at the
2. is the study of the past.
3. In history we learn about famous and also about the lives of people.
4. History tells us why the of the past happened.
5. Historians have divided the study of the past into periods.

B. Write true or false.

Correct the false sentences in your notebook.

1. In history we learn about what is happening these days.
2. History tells us when and why things happened.
3. Families do not have a history.
4. The stories of famous people and of people who were not famous are all part of history.
5. We learn history for many different reasons.

C. Match the following.

A	B
1. Time and History	a. a person who studies history
2. Famous	b. help us to understand when events happened.
3. Ordinary	c. are continuous.
4. Historian	d. known by many people
5. Timelines	e. not special

D. Complete the sentences in your notebook.

1. We learn history because
2. We also learn history because
3. A third reason to learn history is because

E. Answer the following questions.

1. What is history?
2. Write three sentences about what we learn in history.
3. What is a timeline?
4. Why is a timeline important when studying history?
5. What are the three periods into which the study of history is divided?

THINGS TO DO



A. Picture study

Look at these pictures and discuss the questions given.

1. Which animals were used to pull vehicles in earlier times?
2. Why were letters written on paper?



I want world
sympathy in
this battle of
Right against
Wrong.
Sardar Vallabhbhai
5.4.30

TP B. On your own

How have things changed since earlier times? Talk to your grandparents and parents about the following questions. Draw a table in your notebook like the one given below and fill the first two columns with the information you get. Fill the third column with what you already know or with the help of your teacher. Discuss this in class.

1. What transport did they use to go to school?
2. How many children were there in their class?
3. What games did the children play?
4. How much did a slab of chocolate cost?

Your grandparents' time	Your parents' time	Now

C. In a group

Find out the history of your school. In groups of two or three, ask your teachers the following things. Write out their answers. Draw or paste pictures of how your school looked in the past.:

1. How old your school is
2. How many children it started with
3. Whether it started in this building or somewhere else
4. Who the first principal was
5. How many classes there were in the beginning

WEBLINK

A Mahatma called Gandhi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mb5Z6MRBQ3U>
(accessed on 27 July 2017)