

Name: _____

U.S. History Hour: _____

Vocabulary: What is Historical Thinking?

1. **History** – an account of the past; events described in chronological order with identified causes and effects

- History can be recorded in many ways. It can be written down or told as oral stories.
- History should be plausible (believable) and reliable.

2. **Narratives(s)** – a story of events or experiences; an account; can be either true or fictitious

- Narrative history is recorded in story based form.
- Historical narrative should be based on true events.

3. **Bias** – a form of favoritism; prejudice; a point of view that creates a prejudice

- A bias influences a person's opinion or perspective.
- A bias may cause unfair actions or prejudice.

4. **Evidence**- proof; something which tends to prove or disprove a case or claim; the source of evidence may or may not make it reliable or full of bias

- Historians use evidence to create a balanced judgment.
- Evidence is created through research.

5. **Plausible** – credible; potentially acceptable as truth or possible; believable

- Plausible = seemingly worthy of approval or acceptance
- Plausibility = believability and trustworthiness

6. **Context** – the setting or “backdrop” of a thing or event

- Context has an impact on the historical event.
- Context creates meaning and a full understanding.

<p>7. Historical Context - refers to the events, important people, moods, attitudes, and conditions that existed in a certain time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Context is a very important factor to consider when describing something in history. ○ Context adds to the significance of an event and gives it meaning. ○ No event or key person can be fully understood without understanding the context 	
<p>8. Contextualizing - To place an event, idea, or key person in context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You must do this with historical events. ○ What where the events, important people, moods and attitudes at the time? 	
<p>9. Corroborate – to confirm, cross check, verify, authenticate, support, or validate that something is true or plausible (believable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross Checking = using two or more sources of info to 'prove' that something is true or reliable 	
<p>10. Sourcing – determining where information and evidence came from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who wrote this? ○ What is the author's point of view? ○ Why was it written? ○ When was it written? (this is contextualizing) ○ Is it believable? Why? Why not? 	
<p>11. Primary Source Documents – are original materials that are a source of information about an event, key person or idea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These sources are created at the time of event, key person or idea. ○ May include bias!!!! 	
<p>12. Secondary Source Document – sources of information that cite, comment on, or build upon primary sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Usually written after the event with the benefit of hindsight (looking back) ○ May contain bias ○ Textbooks are secondary sources, but may include primary source documents. 	