

Level: 1st year

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Groups: 6,7,8,9, and 10

Introduction to Historical Texts

Definition of Historical Texts

Historical texts refer to written documents or records that provide information about past events, people, and societies. Historical texts often serve as primary sources for historians and researchers, offering firsthand accounts or contemporary perspectives on the events they describe.

Types of Historical Texts

1.Primary Sources: these are original, firsthand records or documents that were created at the time being studied. They provide direct evidence about an event, individual, or time period. Examples of primary sources include letters, diaries, official documents, eyewitness accounts, and photographs.

2.Secondary Sources: these are interpretations or analyses of primary sources. Secondary sources are created after the events they describe and involve the synthesis, interpretation, or analysis of information from primary sources. Examples of secondary sources include historical textbooks, biographies, and documentaries. While secondary sources are valuable for providing context and analysis, they are not direct evidence of the historical events.

* The distinction between primary and secondary sources lies in the proximity of the source to the events it describes and whether it provides direct evidence or is an interpretation of that evidence.

Examples of Historical Texts

These texts can take various forms, including letters, diaries, official documents, speeches, and other written materials.

1. **Official Documents:** Constitutions, laws, treaties, and government records.

2. **Personal Documents:** Diaries, letters, that offer personal perspectives on historical events.

3. **Biographies:** text tells true story about person's life.

4. **Nonfiction book:** text that tells facts and details about historical topic or event.

5. **Speeches:** spoken opinion or report made by individuals about a certain topic in historical contexts.

Purpose of Historical Text

To inform: when the purpose is to inform most authors present the fact and details without sharing their point of view.

To persuade: when the purpose is to persuade, authors try to convince people to think a certain way.

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Like other nonfiction text, the main idea of a historical text is what the text is mostly about.

Supporting details give important information about the main idea. They help readers understand main idea by backing it up with evidence.

Text Structure

The most common structures in historical texts are cause/effect and sequence.

Cause/Effect: A cause/effect structure explains why different things happen. It shows how events are connected. A cause is what happens first. The effect is what happens as a result of the cause. Authors use signal words to show cause and effect. These include: because, for this reason, as a result, and due to.

Sequence: A sequence structure tells events in order. Dates and time-order words help identify the sequence of events. Time-order words include: first, then, after, before, and finally.

Graphic features: are visual aids that help explain the text or give extra information. Here are some examples of graphic features in historical texts.

Map: is a drawing that shows where places or things are located.

Timeline: shows when events happened. The dates and events are shown in time order along a line or a bar.

Photograph: is a picture that shows an event as it happened.

Illustration: is a drawing that shows what something looks like.

Summary

*Historical texts are informational texts, about people, places, and events in the past or in history.

*Historical texts often explain why event happened.

*People read historical texts to learn about the past and how it affected the future