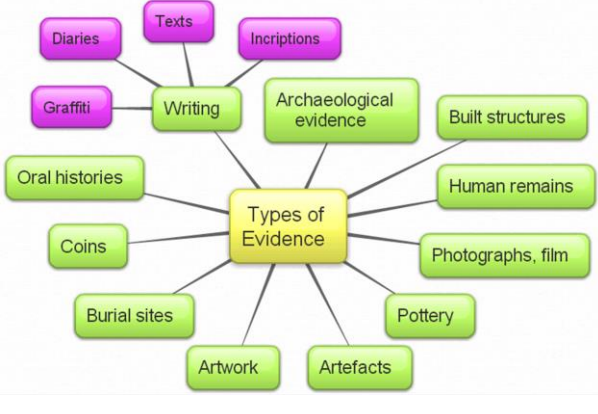


# Aim #2: How do social scientists study the past?

## Understanding Our Past

NYS SS Framework: Historical Thinking



### Historical Circumstances (Historical Context)

the events that led to an event; includes the time period and larger historical trends as well as causes

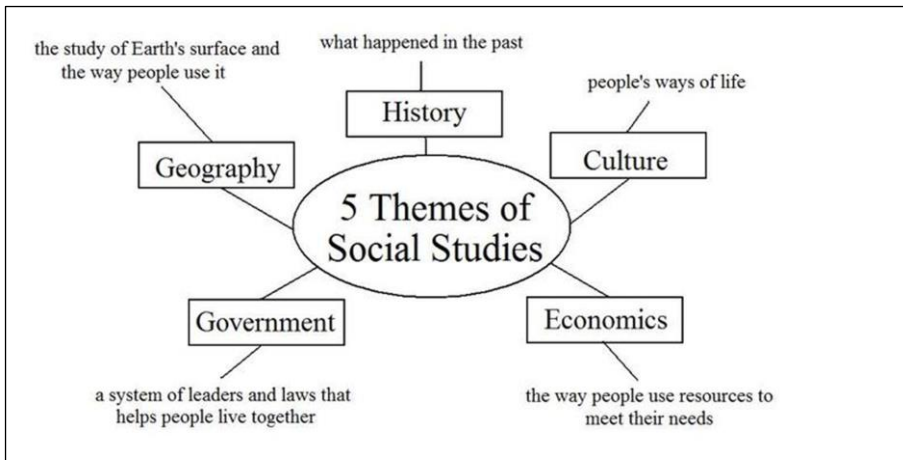
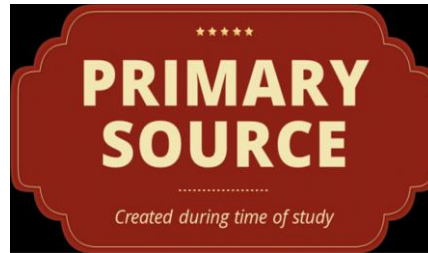
When did it happen?

What time period was it? What were the characteristics of that time period? What led to it?

Who was involved? What were those people like? Why were they involved?

### Mini Lecture

- Archeologists, historians, & other scholars are learning about our past through careful research.
- When the evidence they find is gathered, pieced together & interpreted, a fascinating story of the emergence of civilization unfolds.
- **Archaeologists** analyze **artifacts** to trace how early people developed new technologies & ways of life (**cultures**).
- **Historians** also study how people lived in the past, but rely more heavily on written evidence (**Primary & Secondary sources**).
- Historians also must evaluate evidence to determine its **reliability**.
- **Historical Circumstances (Historical Context)** the events that led to an event; includes the time period and larger historical trends as well as causes
- **Geographers** use the themes of location, place, human environment interaction, movement, & region to explain the impact of geography on the human story.
- **Political scientists, economists, & other social scientists** contribute to our understanding of our past.



### Graphic Summary: Learning About the Past

	ARCHAEOLOGY	HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY
What is it?	Study of early people by examining things they left behind	Study of what happened and how people lived in the past	Study of Earth, its people and its Resources
Who does it?	Archaeologists	Historian	Geographer
What do they do?	Study artifacts, such as tools, weapons clothing, pottery	Study artifacts, especially Written documents	Study where people lived and why they lived there
Why do they do it?	To learn about the beliefs and activities of a group of people	To learn how events happened	To learn how places affect the way people live and how people move from place to place

### Review Questions:

1. How do archeologists study the past?
2. How do historians study the past?
3. How do other social scientists contribute to our knowledge of history?

Further Reading: Chapter 1, Section 1



## What sources do historians use to learn about the past?

### Vocabulary

primary source: materials from the time period being studied (created by someone who was present for the event discussed or who wrote about it around the same time)

secondary source: document based on primary sources and the work of other authors (written using primary sources by someone who was not there)

source: something historians use to learn about the past

**Directions:** Identify each of the sources above as either a primary source or a secondary source, then explain why you have categorized each source in that way.

Source	Primary Source or Secondary Source?		Why?
<p><b>Max, one of two boys in the fight:</b> “That kid is psycho. He turned around and punched me out of nowhere. Me and my friends were standing in line just joking around, and he turned around and punched me for no reason. He’s messed up and creepy. Ask anyone.”</p>	Primary Source	Secondary Source	
<p><b>Alicia, a girl in the same grade as Max and Justin:</b> “My friend Malik said he was in the lunchroom when Max and Justin started fighting. He told me that some people moved away to give the boys space while some other ran to break it up. I don’t really know either of them, but I bet Justin started it.”</p>	Primary Source	Secondary Source	

## Primary or Secondary?

1. A **journal entry** written by Christopher Columbus describing his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.

2. A **biography** of Napoleon Bonaparte (died in 1821) written by a historian in 2013.

3. A **textbook** chapter about World War I (1914-1919), written in 1996.

4. A **photograph** of your grandfather on his first day of school.

Circle one:

Circle one:

Circle one:

Circle one:

Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Why?		Why?		Why?		Why?	

5. Winston Churchill's **autobiography** about the first thirty years of his life which he wrote later in his life.

6. A **newspaper article** about the start of World War II, written the day after it started.

7. A **letter** from George Washington to Thomas Jefferson.

8. A **sword** that was made in 1317.

Circle one:

Circle one:

Circle one:

Circle one:

Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Why?		Why?		Why?		Why?	