

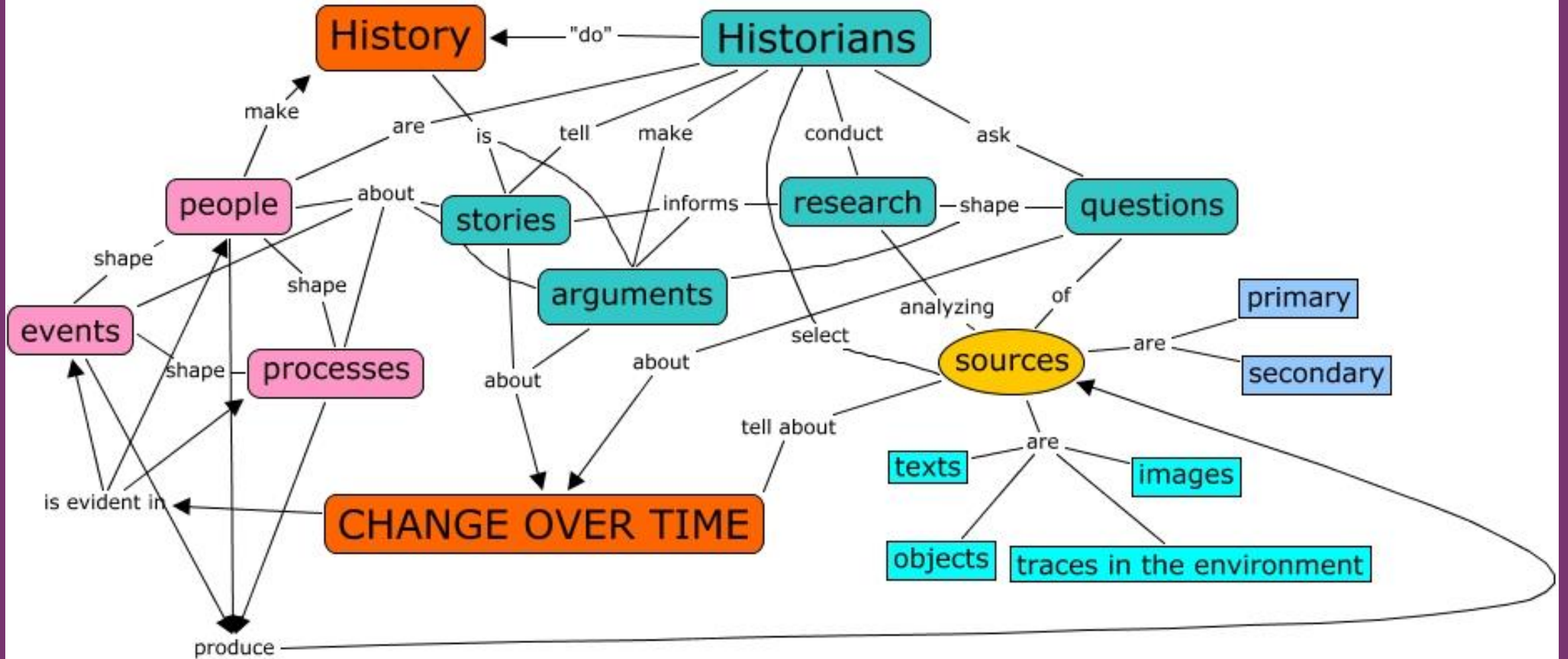
# **HISTORY AND ITS PURPOSE**

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# WHAT IS HISTORY?



# WHERE DOES THE WORD HISTORY COME FROM

- The word History is derived from Latin word **Historia**, meaning narrative of past events, account, tale and story.
- The word history is also related to Greek word '**eidenai**' which means to know.
- The Persian word for History is, Ilm –i- Tarikh, meaning Knowledge of dates.

# WHAT IS HISTORY?

- History is the study of the human past as it is described in the written documents left by human beings. The past, with **all** its decisions completed, its participants dead and its **history** told, is what the general public perceives as the immutable bedrock on which we historians and archaeologists stand.
- But it is we who interpret these facts. So history is as much about present as about past.
- Studying **history** is **important** because it allows us to understand our past, which in turn allows us to understand our present.
- Studying **history** can provide us with insight into our cultures of origin as well as cultures with which we might be less familiar, thereby increasing cross-cultural awareness and understanding.

# IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY

- It is **important** because **history** helps you understand the past to predict the future and help in creating it. ... understanding **history** helps us avoid repeating the mistakes over and over again. The more we study **history** , the wiser we become. Doomed are those who can't interpret **history** well.
- Historians do not perform heart transplants, improve highway design, or arrest criminals. In a society that quite correctly expects education to serve useful purposes, the functions of history can seem more difficult to define than those of engineering or medicine.
- History is in fact very useful, actually indispensable, but the products of historical study are less tangible, sometimes less immediate, than those that stem from some other disciplines.

# **FUNCTIONS OF HISTORY**

- **History Helps Us Understand People and Societies.**

The past causes the present, and so the future. Any time we try to know why something happened—whether a shift in political party dominance, a major change in the teenage suicide rate, or a war in the Balkans or the Middle East—we have to look for factors that took shape earlier.

- **The Importance of History in Our Own Lives**

History well told is beautiful. Biography and military history appeal in part because of the tales they contain.

# FUNCTIONS

## **History Contributes to Moral Understanding.**

Studying the stories of individuals and situations in the past allows a student of history to test his or her own moral sense, to hone it against some of the real complexities individuals have faced in difficult settings. People who have weathered adversity not just in some work of fiction, but in real, historical circumstances can provide inspiration.

## **History Provides Identity.**

## **Studying History Is Essential for Good Citizenship.**

History provides data about the emergence of national institutions, problems, and values—it's the only significant storehouse of such data available. It offers evidence also about how nations have interacted with other societies, providing international and comparative perspectives essential for responsible citizenship.

# WHY IS HISTORY NEEDED?

- The past has value to our society. It helps to show how we've gotten to where we are now, and understand why our country is progressing or not progressing.
- Our view of history shapes the way we view the present, and therefore it could be easier for new generations to preserve history and pass it on into the future generations to know what has really happened in the past.
- We should be aware of our respective culture to know the history of our own country.
- To evaluate the happenings of the past for the present generation not to commit the same mistakes of the past.



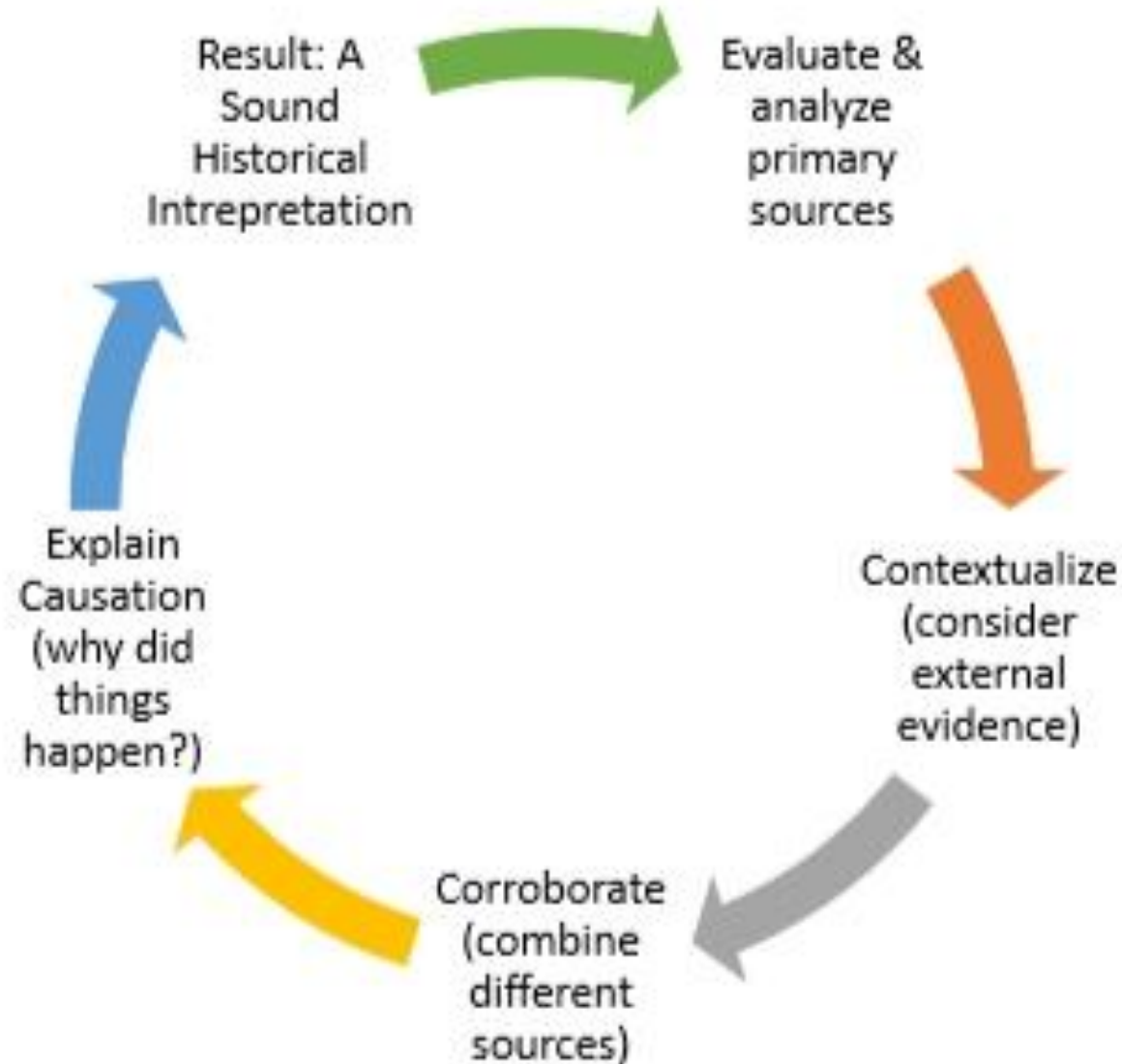
## HOW DOES IT HELP?

- Prepare you for work
- Enable you to participate fully in society
- Develop you as a person

# CONNECTS TO THE WORLD

- History also helps us to understand many of the issues that affect the world today.
- By broadening your knowledge of current affairs, you are developing yourself personally and preparing yourself more fully for adult and working life
- Can you think of any issues that affect the world that have their roots in history?

# Keys to Historical Thinking



# FEW QUOTES

History does not refer, merely, or even principally, to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us.

James Baldwin

*American Writer*

History should be taught for pleasure, the joy of history, like art or music or literature, consists of an expansion of the experience of being alive. And that is what education is largely about.

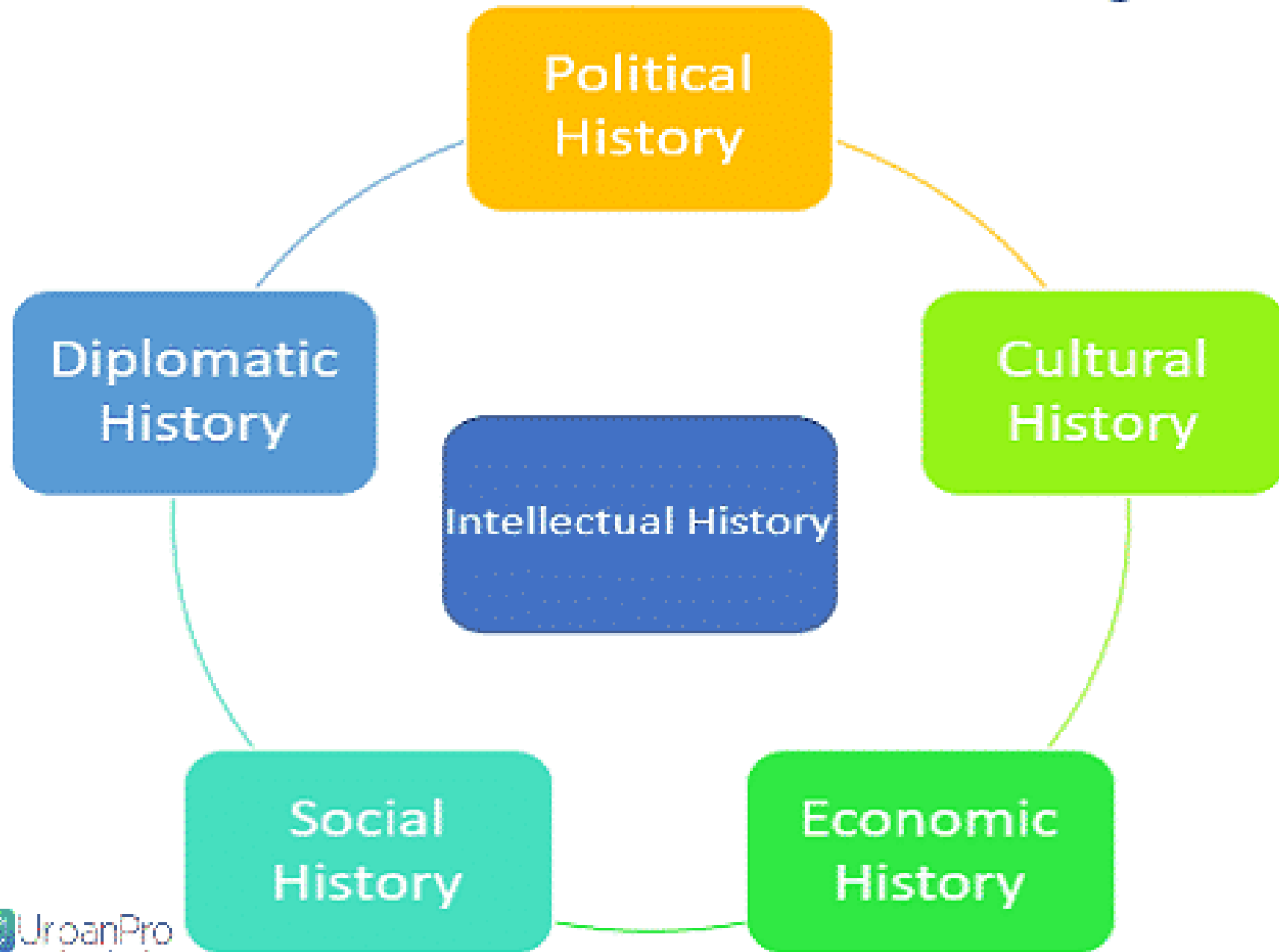
David McCullough

*American Historian and Author*

# CONTRIBUTION

1. History is essential to individuals and society
2. History helps us understand people and societies
3. History is the story of human life on Earth
4. History contributes to moral understanding
5. History provides Identity

# 6 Different Types of History



# KINDS OF HISTORY

- **Political History:** Political History is the narration of the evolution of the political related matters of the past. This branch of history deals with the analysis of political leaders, ideas, events, movements, activities and so on, along with the making of government policies (constitutions etc). This branch of history focuses on the study of normative beliefs as it is believed to be the reason behind the historical changes.
- **Diplomatic History:** Considered to be started in the nineteenth century, Diplomatic history is the branch of history that focuses on the study of international relations between nations (between states). This history tends to be more concerned with the history of diplomacy and the ideas of diplomacy and much more.
- **Cultural History:** Cultural history is the branch of history that deals with the traditions and cultural interpretation of the past. It is a study of various facets of human and history. Simply, cultural history records and interprets various past events involving human beings like literature, sport, and entertainment and much more.

# OTHER KINDS OF HISTORY

- **Social History:** The history which focuses on the study of various societal norms like ways of living, standard, customs, disciplines, status and so on of the people, alongside the demography. Simply, it is a branch of history which looks at the lived experience of the past. Today, social history is otherwise called the New Social History. **Women's History** is an important branch
- **Economic History:** Economic history is the branch of history that focuses on the study of economies as well as economical phenomena of the past. Simply, the study of the pattern of the production, consumption alongside industry, market and so on concerning the past, economic history aims to understand the historical events of the economical processes.
- **Intellectual History:** The history which aims to understand the ideas (ideology and philosophy) by understanding the political, cultural, intellectual, and social context of the past. Intellectual history is about the human (historians) actions and how they developed history.



# THE THREE EPISTEMOLOGICAL WEAKNESSES OF HISTORY



- **1 - The historian's sources - the raw material.** The first thing that makes historical knowledge difficult to acquire is the inadequacy of the raw materials that the historian is forced to work with. Unlike a social scientist who can directly observe participants in a controlled experimental context, our inability to travel through time means that the historian relies on indirect and uncontrollable evidence that the past has left behind.

# THE THREE EPISTEMOLOGICAL WEAKNESSES OF HISTORY

- **2 -The historian's method - interpreting the evidence.** All history can do is interpret; it constructs plausible meanings from the evidence that the past has left behind. What this means in reality is two levels of interpretation. In the **first level of interpretation**, historians depend entirely on the people who have interpreted the events they have lived through and who have left us a record to consider. The **second level of interpretation** is of course the interpretation of the past evidence by the historians themselves.
- **3 -The historian's product - writing the text.** The final epistemological weakness of history stems from the simple inability to be able to compare like with like. History cannot be compared with the past and cannot be verified against the past, because the past and history are different things. The historical text, the narrative account can never correspond to the past as it was, because unlike history the past was not a text, it was a series of events, experiences, situations etc.

# UNDERSTANDING CHANGE

- History is unique in that it investigates how human life has changed over time
- Today the scientists, the administrators, technocrats, intellectuals, musicians, painters, artists, all are products of history.
- We will develop an understanding of change through the perspectives of political, social, cultural, economic, religious and scientific history

# FOR CAREER

- Independent thinkers
- Open-minded and objective
- Disciplined
- Good communicators
- Able to analyse issues and problems
- Able to put together logical arguments

# SKILLS

- Historians are regarded as having had an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions and this is a very useful quality in many walks of life and careers .
- History is an excellent preparation for very many other jobs.

# COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- The study of history is not just about interpreting the past but also presenting your thoughts
- History helps you to write in an organised, coherent, logical way, supporting your views with evidence
- This will help you in your other subjects, as well as in life and work later

# RESEARCH SKILLS

- A study of the past will introduce us to many different types of evidence, such as:
- Paintings, Sculptures, Photographs.
- Maps
- Oral literature and textual traditions.
- Political cartoons
- Diary entries, Memoirs
- Official records

# RESEARCH SKILLS

- As a historian , exploring these types of evidence enhances the research skills
- A person can become skilled at locating historical data from different sources, evaluating it and recording and presenting their findings
- One will also realise the importance of looking at issues from more than one point of view



# ANALYTICAL SKILLS

- You will also develop your ability to think critically, to evaluate the usefulness of sources, to detect bias or propaganda
- These skills are very useful in many careers and in everyday life

# CAREER PROSPECTS

- **Historians as Educators**

- Elementary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Postsecondary Education
- Historic Sites and Museums

- **Historians as Researchers**

- Museums and Historical Organizations
- Cultural Resources Management and Historic Preservation
- Think Tanks

- **Historians as Communicators**

- Writers and Editors
- Journalists
- Documentary Editors
- Producers of Multimedia Material

- **Historians as Information Managers**

- Archivists  
Records Managers  
Librarians  
Information Managers

- **Historians as Advocates**

- Lawyers and Paralegals  
Litigation Support  
Legislative Staff Work  
Foundations

- **Historians in Businesses and Associations**

- Historians in Corporations  
Contract Historians  
Historians and Nonprofit Associations

# IN SHORT

- One can have a career in Teaching and Research.
- One can have a career in archiving and Heritage.
- One can have a career in Politics.
- One can have a career in Media.
- One can have a career in Business and Commerce.
- One can have a career in Advertising and Public relations.
- One can have a career in Law.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Choosing history allows you to acquire a combination of skills and insights that will
- Broaden your understanding of the world
- Develop you as a person
- Prepare you for a future career
- Enable you to participate fully in society.

