



Studying History and  
Geography  
World Geography and Cultures 1  
Ms. Weisslinger

# Do Now

## ❖ What is the study of history?

**Answer:** History is the study of the past. Historians and archaeologists, people who study objects of the past, use many tools and methods to learn about the past. Understanding the past helps people to understand the world better today.

# The Big Idea

- ❖ Historians use many kinds of clues to understand how people lived in the past.

# Main Ideas

- ❖ History is the study of the past.
- ❖ We can improve our understanding of people's actions and beliefs through the study of history.
- ❖ Historians use clues from various sources to learn about the past.

# Essential Question

- ❖ Why do scholars study the people, events, and ideas of long ago?

# Students will be able to...

- ❖ **explain** that historians and archaeologists use a variety of clues to study past civilizations.
- ❖ **describe** how understanding the past can help people better understand the present and plan for the future.

# HISTORY



Ancient Mesopotamia (present day Iraq)

# Specialized History Vocabulary

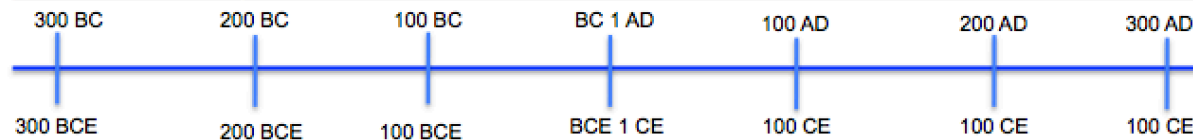
## Terms that identify periods of time

<b>decade</b>	a period of 10 years
<b>century</b>	a period of 100 years
<b>age</b>	a long period of time marked by a single cultural feature
<b>era</b>	a long period of time marked by great events, developments, or figures (often people)
<b>ancient</b>	very old, or from a long time ago

## Terms used with dates

<b>circa or c.</b>	a word used to show that historians are not sure of an exact date; it means "about."
<b>BC</b>	a term used to identify dates that occurred long ago, before the birth of Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity; it means "before Christ." As you can see on the timeline below, BC dates get smaller as time passes, so the larger the number the earlier the date.
<b>AD</b>	a term used to identify dates that occurred after Jesus's birth; it comes from a Latin phrase " <i>anno Domini</i> ," that means "in the year of our Lord." Unlike BC dates, AD dates get larger as time passes, so the larger the number the later the date (closer to today).
<b>BCE</b>	another way to refer to BC dates; it stands for "before the common era."
<b>CE</b>	another way to refer to AD dates; it stands for "common era."

## Timeline





# Key Terms for Chapter 1, Section 1

history (p. 6)	the study of the past
culture (p. 7)	the knowledge, beliefs, customs, and values of a group of people
archaeology (p. 7)	the study of the past based on what people left behind
fossil (p. 10)	a part or imprint of something that was once alive
artifacts (p. 10)	objects created by and used by humans
primary source (p. 10)	an account of an event created or told by someone who took part in or witnessed the event
secondary source (p. 10)	information gathered by someone who did not take part in or witness an event

# Building Background

- ❖ Last year you learned about our country's past.



- ❖ Now you will study world history, which started many centuries before the history of the U.S.



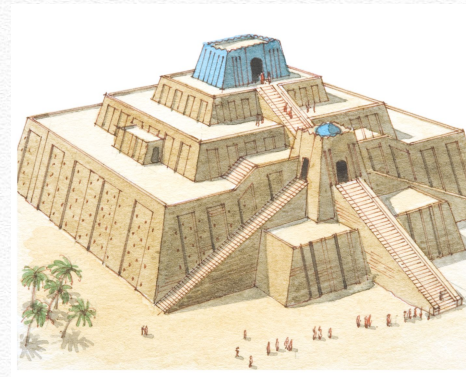
# What is History?

- ❖ **History is the study of the past. A battle that happened 5,000 years ago and an election that happened yesterday are both parts of history.**
- ❖ **Historians are people who study history. They want to know how people lived and why they did the things they did. They try to learn about the problems people faced and how they solved those problems.**
- ❖ **Historians want to know how people lived their daily lives: how and where they worked, fought, traded, farmed, and worshiped. What did they do in their free time? What games did they play?**
- ❖ **Historians study the past to understand people's culture: the knowledge, beliefs, customs, and values of a group of people.**

# What is Archaeology?

Archaeology relates to history and is the study of the past based on what people left behind.

Archaeologists explore places where people once lived, worked, or fought. The things that people left in these places include jewelry, dishes, or weapons and range from stone tools to huge buildings.



Many times, the objects that people left behind are the only clues we have to learn how they lived.

# Comprehension Check

- ❖ **How are the fields of history and archaeology similar?**

**Answer:** Both study people and places of the past.

- ❖ **Who are historians? Who are archaeologists?**

**Answer:** Historians study the past and archaeologists study the past based on things people left behind.

- ❖ **What kinds of information contribute to an understanding of people's culture?**

**Answer:** Their knowledge, beliefs, customs, and values.

- ❖ **What might the discovery of an ancient people's dishes tell us about how they lived?**

**Possible Answers:** materials that were available, level of technological skill, artistic taste, how many different kinds of food and drink they had, etc.

# Using Clues

- ❖ Historians must rely on a variety of sources to learn history.
- ❖ For information on the very first humans, we have fossil remains.
- ❖ A fossil is a part or imprint of something that was once alive.



# Using Clues

- ❖ As human beings learned to make things, by accident they also created more sources of information for us. They made what we call **artifacts**, objects created by and used by humans.



# Let's try it...



In the above images, young Maria de Sautéola discovers prehistoric cave paintings in Altamira, Spain, in 1879. What do these paintings say about the life of early people?

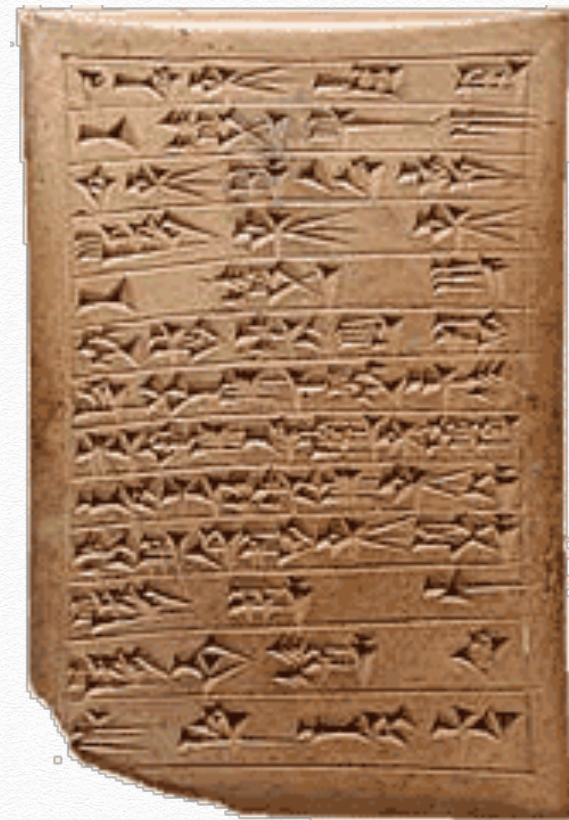
That early people had the skill to make tools for drawing, that they were interested in keeping records of animals for reasons we can only speculate about, and that they used this cave perhaps as a dwelling place and for holding rituals/ceremonies.



# Using Clues

- ❖ About 5,000 years ago, people invented writing. They wrote laws, poems, speeches, battle plans, letters, contracts, and many other things.
- ❖ In these written sources, historians have found countless clues about how people lived. In addition, people have recorded their messages in many ways over the centuries.
- ❖ Historians have studied writing carved into stone pillars, stamped on clay tablets, scribbled on turtle shells, typed with typewriters, and sent by computer.

# Cuneiform Writing



# Using Clues

- ❖ There are two types of historical sources that historians use:
  - ❖ **PRIMARY** Sources
  - ❖ **SECONDARY** Sources

# Using Clues

- ❖ **Primary Source:** is an account of an event created by someone who took part in or witnessed the event.

**Examples:** Treaties, letters, diaries, laws, court documents, royal commands, audio, and video recordings of an event.

- ❖ **Secondary Source:** is information gathered by someone who did NOT take part in or witness the event.

**Examples:** history textbooks, journal articles, magazine articles, social media, etc.

# Sources of Change

- ❖ Writers of secondary sources don't always agree about the past.
- ❖ Historians form different opinions about the primary sources they study.
- ❖ As a result, historians may not interpret past events in the same way.

# Sources of Change

- ❖ For example, one writer may say that a king was a brilliant military leader.
- ❖ Another may say that the king's armies only won their battles because they had better weapons than their enemies.
- ❖ Sometimes new evidence leads to new conclusions. As historians review and reanalyze information, their interpretations can and do change.

# Let's Review

- ❖ What is history?
- ❖ What kinds of things do historians try to discover about people who lived in the past?
- ❖ What kinds of evidence will historians of the future study to learn about your culture?
- ❖ How does knowing its own history provide a group with a sense of unity?
- ❖ What is a primary source?
- ❖ How did the invention of writing affect the sources on which historians rely?
- ❖ Could a photograph be considered a primary source? Why or why not?

# Summary and Preview...

- ❖ We benefit from studying the past. Scholars use many clues to help them understand past events.
- ❖ In the next section you will learn how geography connects to history.