

Essential Questions for History

Below is a list of general essential questions for History classes. Use these to develop more specific essential questions.

- What happened in the past?
- How can we know if we weren't there?
- Why study history?
- What can we learn from the past?
- How am I connected to those in the past?
- In what ways is the past about me?
- How do we know what really happened in the past?
- Whose "story" is it?
- Whom do we believe and why?
- Is history the story told by the "winners"?
- Is history inevitably biased?
- Who were the "winners" and who were the "losers"?
- Who was at fault?
- What causes change?
- What remains the same?
- What can we legitimately conclude about the artifacts we find?
- What should we do when the primary sources disagree?
- How does the legacy of earlier groups and individuals influence future generations?
- How do patterns of cause/effect manifest themselves in the chronology of history?
- How has the world changed and how might it change in the future?
- Is it true that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it?