Source 3

Objectives:

Content:

I can **compare multiple sources** for reliability **by annotating** with the Bookmark tool.

Language:

I can **write my comparison** of multiple source using the sentence stem:

Source #____ is more reliable than Source #____ because...

Uncertain Devices (Source #3)

Headnote: *M.J.T. Lewis studied classics at the University of Cambridge and was an expert on industrial archaeology (artifacts used in industry). He wrote a book on* Surveying Instruments of Greece and Rome. *Surveying is measuring the land in order to make a map or plan. The only mention of the dodecahedra in the book is in a section at the end of the book called "Uncertain Devices".*

One suggestion is that they were for surveying... One historian proposed that 'The Roman surveyor would look through a pair of holes, holding the instrument far enough from his eye for the circles to coincide; he would then instruct his assistant, holding a rod of given length, to move far enough in the required direction for the rod to fill the opening precisely. The distance between surveyor and assistant would then be the length of the rod multiplied by the figure appropriate to the pairs of holes being used.'

But there are many objections to this suggestion. Most dodecahedrons do not have such neat proportions; no dodecahedra has a dimension or scale inscribed against a hole; and it would be far simpler and more accurate to measure the distance directly by rope or rod.

Attribution: *Modified from* Surveying Instruments of Greece and Rome, *2004, written by M.J.T. Lewis, published by Cambridge University Press.*

Bookmark: Part 1

First: the **Headnote** and **Attribution**

As you read:
circle in pencil
- ☐ Who said, drew, or wrote this?
- ☐ When and where was it said, drawn, or written?
- ☐ What type of source is this?
- ☐ Why was it said, drawn, or written? Or, for whom was it created?
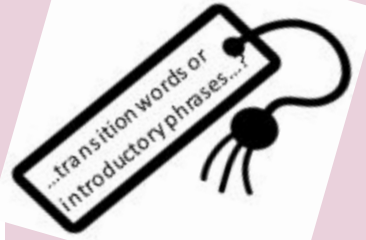
After you read:
Discuss with your group.
Make a note.
- ☐ Which of these details matter and why?

Bookmark: Part 1
Second: the **Source**

...transition words or introductory phrases....?

Uncertain Devices (Source #3)

Underline the beginning of each sentence!

Second: the **Source**

As you read:

Use one question; underline in pencil

Find sentences that begin with transition words or introductory phrases. What key ideas come after transition words or introductory phrases?

After you read:

Discuss with your group.

Make a note.

What do the underlined parts help us understand about the source?

Uncertain Devices (Source #3)

What question could we answer to help show that this is a <u>trustworthy source</u>?

Discuss with your table group.

Reasoning about the Evidence

1. How trustworthy is the author/artist given the central question we are trying to answer?
   - ❏ Was the person who created this in a position to know about the issues?
   - ❏ Was the person who created this an insider or an outsider? (Ex: speaks the same language, knows a lot about topic)
   - ❏ What was the point of view of the person who created this?
   - ❏ What does the person who created this want the reader to think or feel?
   - ❏ Is the source believable?

2. What was going on in the context that the source came from that might affect its usefulness given the central question we are trying to answer?
   - ❏ Was this source created in the place where the events happened?
   - ❏ Was this source created at the time when the events happened? Does that matter?
   - ❏ What else was going on at this time that might have influenced the author/artist?
   - ❏ How does this time/place compare to us today? What's the same or different?
   - ❏ Whose voices or perspectives are not represented here?

3. How do we weigh this source in comparison with others?
   - ❏ Does this source provide the same information as other sources?
   - ❏ In what ways does this source agree or disagree with others?
   - ❏ How do the ideas of the person who created this source compare to other ideas from the same time period or place?
   - ❏ What can this source tell us? What can't we learn from this source?

Uncertain Devices (Source #3)

What question could we answer to help show that this is NOT a trustworthy source?

Discuss with your table group.

Reasoning about the Evidence

1. **How trustworthy is the author/artist given the central question we are trying to answer?**
   - ❏ Was the person who created this in a position to know about the issues?
   - ❏ Was the person who created this an insider or an outsider? (Ex: speaks the same language, knows a lot about topic)
   - ❏ What was the point of view of the person who created this?
   - ❏ What does the person who created this want the reader to think or feel?
   - ❏ Is the source believable?

2. **What was going on in the context that the source came from that might affect its usefulness given the central question we are trying to answer?**
   - ❏ Was this source created in the place where the events happened?
   - ❏ Was this source created at the time when the events happened? Does that matter?
   - ❏ What else was going on at this time that might have influenced the author/artist?
   - ❏ How does this time/place compare to us today? What's the same or different?
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   - ❏ What can this source tell us? What can't we learn from this source?

AFTER YOU READ...

(1) How reliable is this source for learning about the dodecahedron?

Reliable —

Unreliable —

(2) What does this section on Uncertain Devices help you understand about the dodecahedron?

_____
_____

(3) Box the parts of the source that help you think about the central question.