



# WHY STUDY HISTORY?







# 1

**BETTER UNDERSTAND  
THE PRESENT**  
FOR OURSELVES & OUR CHILDREN

## WHY STUDY HISTORY?

TEACHER NOTES FOR HELPFUL DISCUSSION

- To better understand the present.
  - Why is there constant talk and discussion about race equality? When we know about the evils of slavery, and where the history of mankind has come, we understand this present issue so much better.
  - Why do Democrats and Republicans continue to disagree today? This is actually the same struggle the founding fathers had (Federalists & Anti Federalists) and that all of history has had. How much influence should government have is really the present question.
  - Why do you act the way you do? Why is your friend acting this way? Why do your parents do what they do? When you know one's past, you know why they do what they do.
  - Those who know history can see present scenarios in a more accurate light. Nothing is new under the sun.



# 3

**SEE THE FUTURE**  
BECAUSE IT REPEATS



# WHY STUDY

SIX REASONS



# HISTORY?

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**SIX  
REASONS WHY  
& TEACHER  
NOTES!**



**STRONGLY  
AGREE**

**SOMEWHAT**

**STRONGLY  
DISAGREE**

**SO  
DI**

**“THOSE WHO  
DON'T KNOW HISTORY  
ARE DOOMED TO  
REPEAT IT**

~ GEORGE SANTAYANA PAR

DO YOU TH

**SLIDES ARE  
EDITABLE!  
CHANGE OR ADD  
AS DESIRED!**



## WHY STUDY HISTORY?

TEACHER NOTES FOR HELPFUL DISCUSSION

3. We can see the future. (Because history repeats itself)
  - Who wants to be able to see the future? Yes, most kids want too.
  - In sports...by studying film, teams can see what play is going to be played, what route is going to be run, what move is going to be made.
  - Who has parents that tell them not to hang out with certain friends, or go to certain parties, or make certain choices? Or, why do teachers encourage students to do their best? Because both parents and teachers know the past and where your life will end up in the future if certain choices are made. We make our choices today then our choices make our future tomorrow.
  - History repeats itself. Teachers, parents, and even you can see the future because of the knowledge of the past. If you don't know the past, you won't know the future. If you do know the past, you will be able to see the future.

**WHY STUDY**

SIX REASONS

**HISTORY?**



**1. To better understand the present**

- Why is there constant talk and discussion about race equality? When we know about the evils of slavery, and where the history of mankind has come, we understand this present issue so much better.
- Why do Democrats and Republicans continue to disagree today? This is actually the same struggle the founding fathers had (Federalists & Anti Federalists) and that all of history has had. How much influence should government have is really the present question.
- Why do you act the way you do? Why is your friend acting this way? Why do your parents do what they do? When you know one's past, you know why they do what they do.
- Those who know history can see present scenarios in a more accurate light. Nothing is new under the sun.

**2. We can improve our lives by learning from the past**

- Who wants their life to be even better than it is today? All of us do. Those who study history have better lives because they avoid the pitfalls and mistakes of the past. Better than learning from your own mistakes, is learning from other people's mistakes.
- Dialing it way down... if two cars hit a pothole (information from the direct past) and you study it, you can swerve to avoid it.
- In sports... teams study film from past games of their own and their opponents' to better their abilities and their game. In the same way, students of history improve their own lives.
- The founding fathers learned so much of what not to do, that the entire constitution was written to avoid the negative ways of past nations. The freedoms of man became better in the U.S. because of history learned.
- On and on it goes. History learned only improves one's life.

**3. We can see the future (Because history repeats itself)**

- Who wants to be able to see the future? Yes, most kids want too.
- In sports... by studying film, teams can see what play is going to be played, what route is going to be run, what move is going to be made.
- Who has parents that tell them not to hang out with certain friends, or go to certain parties, or make certain choices? Or, why do teachers encourage students to do their best? Because both parents and teachers know the past and where your life will end up in the future if certain choices are made. We make our choices today then our choices make our future tomorrow.
- History repeats itself. Teachers, parents, and even you can see the future because of the knowledge of the past. If you don't know the past, you won't know the future. If you do know the past, you will be able to see the future.

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continue to study the past to become stronger, faster, bigger, and better. The past (or history) is valuable and necessary in all subject matters.

- Those who don't know history are lead or controlled by those who do. Political leaders, really any leader for that matter, knows their history.

**6. For fun facts and adventure**

- Who doesn't like to know a little something interesting to impress their friends and family. It's fun to know some facts and feel smart. It even allows you to correctly answer some random trivia here and there.
- History allows you to go back in time, explore entire empires, and meet various people. History is a time machine of adventure and exploration without the trials and expense. When seen this way, history is exciting for all ages.
- There are many more reasons, but these 6 are a great sample to help students see the importance of why we devote entire courses in school to this one subject of history. If nothing else, the included quote by Santayana sums it up: "THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT!"

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# TEACHER NOTES WITH HISTORICAL EXAMPLES TO LEAD DISCUSSION



WHY STUDY HISTORY QUIZ

name: \_\_\_\_\_

**6 REASONS**

List the 6 reasons as to why we study history.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

POST REFLECTION WHY STUDY HISTORY?

name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. EXPLAIN**

Explain any event from history (World, National, Local, or even Personal) and write the details of that event in a summary paragraph. Remember to include the 5 W's (Who, What, When, Where, Why) to help you explain.

**PICK ONE**

Which of the 6

**B. CHOOSE**

Choose one of the six reasons as to why we study history that would best fit your chosen event and write it below.

**C. APPLY**

Using your historical example (A) and your chosen why (B), what can you specifically learn from this event to benefit your own life, community, country, or even humanity moving forward?

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# POST REFLECTION WRITING ACTIVITY & QUIZ TEMPLATE





The background is a detailed, monochromatic blue-toned vintage map, likely a celestial or nautical chart, featuring various geographical labels, constellations, and decorative elements. A large white circle is centered on the map, containing the letters 'MH' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'M' and 'H' are connected at the top and bottom, with the letters 'I' and 'S' from 'MISTER HARMS' visible within the negative space of the 'H'.

**MH**

MISTER HARMS

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