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| **SS 301 US History – Review of Historical Thinking Skills Notes** |
| How do we know what we know about what happened in history? |
| **Textbooks?**   * How do textbook writers know?   **Google?**   * How does Google know?   **Historians?**   * How do Historians know? |
| History is a process of Inquiry |
| * Historians make their best estimation about what happened by asking questions and putting together clues **from** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **and historical artifacts**. They must also account for factors that might influence the message or level of trustworthiness.   **Think of history as detective work**   * Historical Inquiry = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = clues or information from the source * Primary sources = eyewitnesses or artifacts (sometimes trustworthy, sometimes not) * Ambiguity * Critical thinking |
| “Does the evidence corroborate?” |
| **Corroboration** = finding the same \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ across sources, makes it more reliable  **Corroboration Questions**   * Am I finding the same sources everywhere? * What do the other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ say? * Am I finding different versions of the same story? What is same/different? Why might this be? * What pieces of evidence are most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? * Where else could I look to find out about this? |
| Know your Source! |
| **When was it written/recorded?**   * Date and place? Same as the event in question? * Relevant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?   **Primary or Secondary?**   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or second hand   **Who is speaking?**   * What do you know about the speaker? * Factors that affect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   **Audience and Purpose**   * Why was it written? For whom? |
| Factors that influence Trustworthiness |
| **Perspective** – location, point of view (physical or mental)  **Proximity** – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of time and location, how close the source is to the information you are seeking  **Authority** – expert or in a position to know  **Personal Interest** – a reason to consciously or unconsciously change the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in order to gain or benefit  **Bias** – internal or persona l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that influence the perspective (belief system, personal gain, group id, etc) |