

World History
Objective 1.03:
Enrichment

Relate archaeology, geography, anthropology, political science, sociology, and economics to the study of history.

History is the story of any person, place or thing. It can be as all encompassing as trying to write the history of the world, or the history of man; it can also be as narrow as we want it to be. We could write the history of a bag of chips that we've just eaten, or a particle of dust or anything we want, no matter how big or how small.

History involves relating all the information (facts) that we can find in order to give the reader or listener as clear and thorough an understanding of the subject as possible.

In this course, we are studying World History....from as early as we can to the present. In order to do the best job that we can, we must call on a number of allies – related social science disciplines that will help us to develop our understanding of the history that we seek.

Each of these disciplines will help us in different ways.

Archaeology is the study of past societies through an analysis of the items people left behind them. These are generally classified into two groups, fossils and artifacts. Fossils are remnants of a past organism that has been left behind (bones etc.) or impressions that an organism has left behind such as those found on rock. Artifacts are actual products made in the past that have been left behind. They may be something like clay pots from the distant past or art work of a long gone civilization. Since there is a long period of pre-history (before things were written down) archaeology is a valuable tool in this stage of studying history.

Anthropology looks at the fossils and artifacts that the archaeologists have found and uses them to decipher the secrets of the cultures that left them. It is the study of mankind, how we lived and how we live now.

Geography is the study of the earth. It can include everything from the natural features of the earth, the climate, location of places on the earth, how we interact with the environment, how we shape the land around us and how our environment shapes the way we live.

Political Science is the study of how we govern ourselves. Once mankind began to live in groups, the immediate questions of: Who rules? How do we get along with each other? How do we protect ourselves? And many more, led to the formation of governments. These governments can even be applied to families with the same questions.

Economics is the study of how we produce what we need in order to survive and to improve our way of life. It involves trade and marketing and money, (how we earn it and how we spend it).

Sociology is the study of how mankind interacts with one another. How we get along and how we don't get along. What we can do if we're not getting along. How we can make life better for everyone in our society.

Now that you see all the help we have in learning history, here is your task:

Lesson:

Write a history of yourself. It sounds easier than it is but it can be enjoyable to do while you're working.

You must pretend that you're a historian asked to write a history of YOU.

As a historian, you are going to use all of the sciences listed above to write your history. Start with an opening paragraph and then follow with paragraphs specifically devoted to each science: Archaeology, Anthropology, Geography, Political Science, Economics, Sociology.

In your opening paragraph, you might start something like this:

This is the history of _____. He/she is a sixteen year old high school student at _____ High School in Wake County, North Carolina. By using the tools of various social sciences, I was able to find out a great deal about him/her.

_____ goes to _____ and lives in the city of _____. I learned about this city by studying its geography and find that it is located _____. The population is _____. He/she lives in a neighborhood called _____

etc. etc.

That was the easy one.

Now try Archaeology. Think of how someone could find out about you by the things you leave behind. If you have a waste basket in your room, do a research project on yourself by finding what is in it and what it tells about you. If not this, try your backpack. It may hold lots of secrets.

From Archaeology you can easily slide into anthropology and tell about what you (the researcher) found about you (the subject of the study). Sociology will follow, then Economics (do you work? Where do you get money? What do you do with it?) and then on to Political Science.....getting along in school or even voting if you're older.

Put this all together and you have a history of YOU.....researched by an imaginary person (who is really also you). There are many more parts to making your history complete and you can add them. Don't forget Primary Sources (your family, friends, teachers etc.)

Enrichment:

For this objective, you must first do the Lesson (above) before doing the enrichment exercise.

Since you've completed the History of You.....you will now write a history of someone else. You could do one of someone in your family, but only with his/her permission. People don't like others snooping into their wastebaskets or invading their privacy. Instead, I suggest you do one on someone famous. You will have to sacrifice the "hands-on" part of archaeology, but you can do research by finding whatever has been written about that person's past life. Your other research will also be secondary research, but it will still be valuable.

If you choose someone about whom a biography or autobiography has already been written, your assignment changes somewhat.

You may use that biography/autobiography as your major source but you must find others as well. In addition, you must analyze the major source and write an evaluation of it, specifically noting where it uses the social sciences listed above, and where it does not.