**Investigating History Vocabulary**

**World History**

Historians use specific tools to eliminate false information, keeping information that can be fact checked when investigating the past in order to create a more accurate and reliable picture of the past. When investigating history this year we will be using these tools to examine historical events and topics.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Definition | Examples | Illustration |
| **Primary Source** | Any artifact or first-hand account of an event. Primary sources are witnesses to the event. |  |  |
| **Secondary Source** | Any re-telling of a story by someone who was NOT present at the event and only knows about it by studying primary sources. |  |  |
| **Cross-Reference** | Comparing multiple sources- the more sources that agree on the same story, the more likely the story is true. |  |  |
| Term | Definition | Examples | Illustration |
| **Credibility** | A source’s trustworthiness measured by:   * Having qualified authors with trustworthy reputations * Being created during acceptable circumstances * Including only consistent, accurate facts * Agreeing with other trusted sources (cross-references) |  |  |
| **Bias** | When a personal point of view and life experiences influence a person’s beliefs and/or actions   * Can be either positive or negative * The less bias a source has the more credible it is |  |  |
| **Thesis Statement** | An opinion based on credible evidence. An effective thesis:   * Takes a position * Previews evidence (but is not just a list of facts) * Addresses all parts of the question * Uses descriptive vocabulary |  |  |