 **Historical Thinking Skill:**

***Understanding Historical Evidence***

**Introduction**

* Some parts of history are left out because they are not considered important;
* Others are left out because there is no evidence left for historians to use;
* Two types of evidence are accounts and traces;
* Accounts describe or explain events;
* Traces are items from the past that do not tell a story by themselves, but offer clues instead.

**Step 1: Questions for Artifacts**

* What is the object?
* What might it be used for?
* Who would use it?
* When or in what period was it used?
* What clues or information does it give about the time or about the people who made it and used it?

**Step 2: Questions for Images**

* Who is in the image?
* Who is left out of the image?
* What are the people in the image doing?
* Who might have taken the picture?
* Why was the picture taken?
* When was it taken?
* What does the picture tell you about the time period?

**Conclusion**

* Historians try to read the clues in traces to help them develop accounts of the past;
* When historians find a trace, they ask some questions in order to understand the history it represents.