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WHY STUDY HISTORY?

Directions: Read each of the following documents and answer the question that follows.

Document #1

History is objective. The historian’s task is to give readers the facts...to tell “how it actually happened”...Everything has a history...Traditional historians think of history as essentially a narrative of events.

New Perspectives on Historical Writing

Peter Burke, page 3

1. According to Document #1: What is the task of the Historian?

Document #2

History is the story of humanity’s past. History systematically records and explains what people have thought, said, and done. History deals with political, economic and social matters...History describes humanity’s efforts to improve the world. It recounts the achievements and setbacks in the long upward climb toward a high level of civilization.

World History: Amsco, page 1

2. What does history deal with?

Document #3

Knowledge of the past comes from many sources – from written records and also from knowledge revealed by science developed in the last century or so. New sciences of some importance to the historian are **anthropology**, the study of man’s physical and cultural development; **archaeology**, the discovery and study of material remains; **geology**, the study of rock and earthy formation; **philology**, the study of language and written records; **sociology**, the study of conditions and change in groups; and **psychology** the study of human behavior.

Ancient Civilizations

Carlton Hayes, pages 8&9

3. Where does knowledge of the past come from?
