Changing Perspectives in History (Part 1)



Recap and brainstorming

AOK : History

What is history? (Take notes on the following vid678eo)
Are all events of the past the subject matter of history? Class discussion



Clueless?

Is historical narrative predominantly objective or more like a narrative that is agreed upon?
(Write down your reflection in the TOK journal)

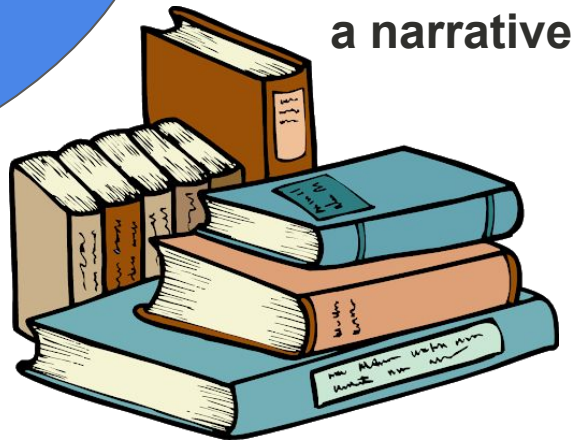
Can the problems of the present be solved by better understanding the past?
(Watch this video and take notes)

Interpretation of Historical Facts

Each individual knower belong to several communities of knowers, which will in turn influence how he or she sees the world.

Like you historians belong to communities of knower, which might have consequences on the way, they analyse and view facts of the past.
This phenomenon is known as BIAS.
It is possible to mitigate BIAS by confronting different historical perspectives.





Is historical knowledge predominantly objective or more like a narrative which is agreed on?

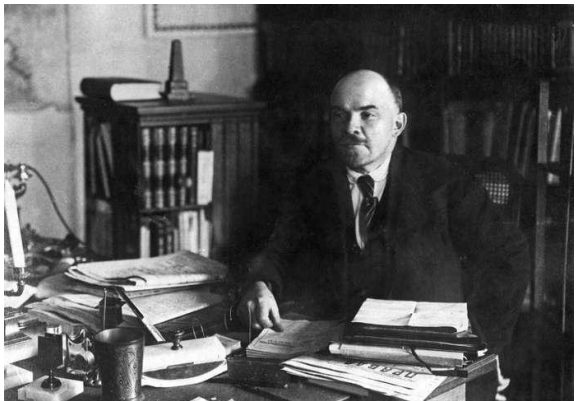
Taking different voices into account while producing knowledge

[History vs. Vladimir Lenin - Alex Gendler]

Want to know more about changing perspectives in History, select a topic you like ranging from Cleopatra to Che Guevara

Activity : watch the TED ED and reflect upon

- Do you think that a one-sided story may be better than considering several perspectives?
- Or could different perspectives change our understanding of the past?



Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924)



Activity 1 : What is colonialism?

Read this article from the National Geographic or watch this TED Talk

Write down an answer to the following questions in your TOK journal.

This brings us to an important question related to the ways that the different communities of knowers to which we belong can have an impact on what we know: 'How does the way that we identify with historical knowledge shape our perspective?'

Have you ever thought that you may be living in someone else's territory? How do the historians of your homeland depict the foundation of your country?

Do you think that it is important to reflect on how your perspective could be influenced by the historical knowledge you have been taught and to be open to putting the latter under scrutiny?



Activity 2 : The eyes of Gutete Emerita

Observe carefully the following online exhibition

Write down an answer to the following questions in your TOK journal.
The Chilean artist, Alfredo Jaar, displayed these and other works regarding the Rwandan genocide in his series ‘The Rwanda Project (1994–2000)’.

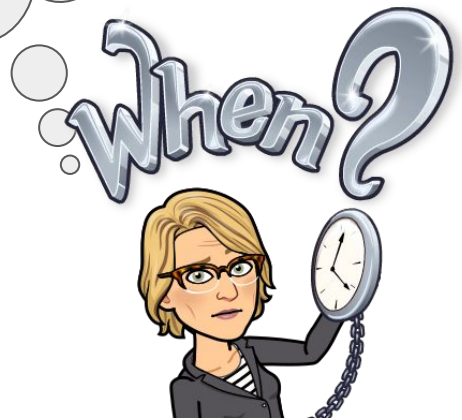
Reflect on the following issues:

- Can the arts help us understand historical events in a broader sense?
- To what extent is the collaboration in interdisciplinary projects between the arts and history a boost for historical memory?



To understand the context in which these pictures were taken

Alfredo Jaar
1956----



Rwandan Genocide - HISTORY

Key concepts



Historiography: the study of the writing of history and of written histories. Read an example of this science in the context of Cold War

Presentism: Merriam-Webster defines presentism as ‘an attitude toward the past dominated by present-day attitudes and experiences’. In our studying of how historical knowledge is produced, we can say that interpreting past events with perspectives of the present implies risks. For example, we may judge actions with a different moral compass than the one that was prevalent in the past.

Colonialism: the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

Genocide: the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group.



Bibliography

“Rwanda genocide of 1994”. Encyclopædia Britannica. August 05, 2016 https://www.britannica.com/event/Rwanda-genocide-of-1994 Accessed January 21, 2021

Flint. Valerie I.J. ”Christopher Columbus”.Encyclopædia Britannica. May 16, 2020. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Christopher-Columbus Accessed: January 21, 2021

Meet Cristobal Colombo in the flesh