

## Prompts for Inquiry Questions Based on Historical Thinking

If you want to focus on a particular concept in historical thinking, here are some prompts to help create inquiry questions:

### *Historical Significance:*

Why is X (person, event, development) important?  
How is X connected to us today?  
Why should we care about X?

### *Evidence:*

What can we learn from X (source or trace from the past)?  
What is the story behind this X?  
What story should we believe (where there are two or more competing accounts)?  
What kind of a person was he or she (based on evidence)?

### *Continuity and Change:*

What kind of a change was X?  
What changed and what stayed the same at this time?  
Was this event a turning point?

### *Cause and Consequence:*

Why did X happen?  
How did X make a difference?  
What helped/hindered X from making a difference?  
What would explain X?  
What happened to X?  
How has X changed our lives?

### *Historical Perspective:*

What were X (group of people) thinking?  
What might explain X (an action or belief) that seems so strange?  
Why might X (person or group) have not really understood what Y (person or group) was doing/believed in?  
What do you think made people fight/refuse to fight or feel ashamed/feel proud about these events?

### *Ethical Dimension:*

How should we remember X?  
How does the context of the time explain X (actions or beliefs)?  
What lessons, if any, can we learn from X?  
Are we condemned to repeat the past? Or could we learn something from X?