

Year 6 Teacher Resource 5 I get the picture (sample answer)

What can we learn from a historical image?

When investigating the experiences of people living in the past images such as sketches, cartoons, photographs, maps and paintings from the time can be very useful. They are primary sources and although they have limitations they provide information on attitudes, values and propaganda from the time.

The table provided below will help you to use historical documents, both primary and secondary sources, to decide whether the sources are useful in providing information for time period of your study. The following questions can be used to check the usefulness of historical sources.

Origin

Where is the source from and who created it? Is it a cartoon or painting from a newspaper, a sketch from a book, a painting from a gallery or a photograph on a website?

Context

What was happening at the time the document was created? This is a description of the important people, attitudes and events at that time.

Elements

What are the parts of the document such as the caption, symbols or language used to get the main ideas across to the reader?

Message

What is the meaning of the document? What does the author want to say to the audience?

Purpose

Why was the document created? This could be to reinforce ideas from the time, convince people, promote political ideas or describe an experience.

Point of view

What were the attitudes and beliefs of the person who created the document? This is the perspective of the author which can be biased towards or against a person or idea.

Reliability

Can the source be trusted as truthful or authentic?

Usefulness

Will the document assist in the understanding of an event or time in history? Can it be trusted? Is it biased? Has it been censored, falsified or exaggerated? Can it be supported by other information on the topic?

Year 6 students are required to investigate a range of sources and **incorporate relevant sources** to support their research. The series of questions provided here will assist in developing an understanding of the relevance of the source.

<p>What can you learn from the title of this image?</p> <p>What can you learn from the captions?</p>	<p>Blackboy Hill was a training camp for Western Australian soldiers during the early months of World War I.</p> <p>You can learn that the 11th Battalion trained at Blackboy Hill. The Battalion embarked from Fremantle on 2 November 1914 to continue their training in Egypt. The caption also provides information on the experiences during the war of Private John Salter, Service Number 944.</p>
<p>What was happening at the time this photo was taken? (What people, places, time period is it from?).</p> <p>This is the called the historical context.</p>	<p>The photograph was taken during the early months of World War I. The war began in August 1914 when Australia joined Britain in declaring war on Germany. Australian men volunteered to train in the newly formed Australian Imperial Forces. Training camps like Blackboy Hill sprang up all over Australia to prepare the men for war. Thousands of AIF troops left Australia in early November 1914 to join soldiers from Britain and other nations in the British Empire.</p>
<p>List the specific details you see in the photograph (the elements in the image):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people • clothing • what the people are doing. 	<p>A well ordered line of marching soldiers in uniform, carrying guns and, white and some black, kit bags.</p> <p>Most soldiers carried guns on their shoulders, while the two soldiers in the front carried swords</p> <p>There are numerous tents in the background</p> <p>Men, women and children watching the soldiers leave the camp.</p>
<p>What is the meaning or message of the image? (Use the information you got from the elements and the caption to help you answer this question).</p>	<p>The soldiers were trained, equipped and ready to join the Allied armies in World War I. They marched in an orderly manner and were watched by family members and friends.</p>
<p>What point of view or perspective is shown in the image</p>	<p>The point of view is probably from the Australian Army, providing an image of the well dressed and armed troops marching from their training camp to leave for the war. It could also have been taken by a visitor to show the disciplined, well attired troops.</p>
<p>Why was the image published? (What was the purpose or aim of the photograph?)</p> <p>Who created it and for what audience?</p>	<p>The image was taken by the Army or an observer to record the important event of the first Western Australian troops, in the 11th Battalion, leaving from their training grounds to join other battalions from Australia to fight in the war.</p>

	<p>The audience would have included the Western Australian and Australian public (through newspaper reports), families of the soldiers and the Army archives.</p>
<p>In what way is the image helpful or useful to your understanding of events or to answer your inquiry questions?</p>	<p>The image is quite useful as it provides information on the uniforms, the size of the kit bags and some weapons carried by the 11th Battalion. The location and some features of the Blackboy Hill camp (such as the lines of tents) are shown. The photograph also indicates that family members were able to attend the camp to farewell the soldiers as they left for war. The approximate date of departure from the camp (c November 1914) and some of the men in the 11th Battalion have been identified.</p>

Another series of questions you could use with your students can be found at

<http://www.achistoryunits.edu.au/year-6/learning-sequence-1-4/tabs/y6-federation-ls-3-1.html>

(Learning sequence 3, click on Reading Historical Images PDF)