

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



Consider that everything in history is a puzzle. The events that happen are a careful fit to the others surrounding it. Therefore, you cannot fully understand one piece of history without thinking about its context. Historical context is the “Big Picture” or the people, places, ideas, and events that happen before, during, and after the topic you are examining. Think about your topic and fill in the chart below.

Main events occurring before my topic:

What caused your topic to happen? Why did it happen?

What people, ideas, or events took place at the same time that were related to your topic?

What long term changes took place because of your topic?

Your Topic

Main timeframe of topic

Major location(s)

How was the setting significant to your topic?

What were the immediate results of your topic? What impact did it have?

Why was your topic significant in history?

