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Activity 4: Listening Comprehension

How Do Historians Use Historical Sources?

Transcript

Hello everyone, and welcome to today's lesson.

Have you ever wondered how historians know what happened hundreds or even thousands of years ago? The answer is simple: they study historical sources. These sources provide the evidence that helps historians understand the past.

Historical sources can take many different forms. They include written documents, photographs, maps, letters, diaries, coins, buildings and even everyday objects used by ordinary people. Every source tells us something about the people who created it and the society in which they lived.

However, historians do not accept every source as completely accurate. Before using a source, they ask several important questions. Who created it? When was it produced? Why was it created? Was the author trying to inform people, persuade them or record an event? These questions help historians evaluate the reliability of the information.

Historians also compare different sources. A single source may only present one point of view, but by analysing several sources together, historians can build a more complete picture of the past. Sometimes two sources describe the same event in different ways. When this happens, historians carefully examine the evidence before reaching a conclusion.

Today, digital technology has made historical research easier than ever before. Many archives, libraries and museums have digitised their collections, allowing students and

researchers to access historical documents from anywhere in the world. This has opened new opportunities for historical research and international collaboration.

Studying historical sources is not only important for historians. It also teaches us how to think critically, question information and recognise different perspectives. These skills help us understand both the past and the world we live in today.

Thank you for listening.