**Chapter 1 summary: How do historians and archaeologists find out about the past?**

* There are 2 types of sources: ***Primary*** and ***Secondary***.
* **Primary sources** come directly from the period being studied. They are first hand sources. They were either used or made by the people of the past.
* Examples include: tools, weapons, buildings, a diary....
* **Secondary sources** provide **second hand evidence**. They are created after an event has happened by someone who did not witness what they are writing about.
* Examples include: text books and films.
* There are lots of different types of primary and secondary sources:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Written** | **Visual** | **Aural** | **Oral** | **Tactile** |
| Documents Newspapers Texts Emails | Photographs Videos Paintings  | Sounds of the past  | Interviews Recordings  | Artefacts (objects) Buildings Monuments Model |

* ***Prehistory***=This is the time before the development of writing
* **Chronological order** = putting events in the order in which they occurred.
* **Artefact** = objects made by people, such as axes, spears, coins, phones, clothes and watches
* **A historian** = someone who studies history using sources
* **Bias** = ones sided
* **Propaganda** = selective use of information
* **Fact** = something we can prove with evidence
* **Opinion** = what one, or more, people think
* **Objective** = Unbiased, dealing with facts, not letting opinions get in the way

**An archaeologist at work**

1. Archaeologist = **someone who studies the past by excavating the what they have left behind**
2. Area excavated = a **site**
3. How to pick a site
4. **Obvious places** e.g. ruin of a church or castle
5. **Clues from maps, documents and aerial photographs**
6. **Clues from myths and legends** e.g. Troy
7. **Rescue excavation** – carried out before development takes place
8. Excavation ->
9. **Fence off the site** from the public
10. Make **a site map** and number each section
11. Remove topsoil with a digger and begin carefully digging layer by layer with a **trowel, brush, sieve, photographic scales**
12. Found artefacts are **photographed, put in air tight container** and location is marked on site map
13. Archaeologists look out for **postholes**
14. Problems -> **weather, time and legal difficulties**
15. Dating Objects ->
16. **Carbon 14 dating**: anything that once lived contains carbon 14. After death the carbon slowly **leaks away**. Consequently, by measuring how much carbon 14 is left archaeologists can determine how old the object is.
17. **Stratigraphy**: This involves taking careful note of the **layers of soil**. If something with a known date, such as a coin, is found at the same level or strata as an object then it can help tell the object’s age.
18. **Dendrochronology**: This involves the study of **tree rings**. Each ring represents a year of the tree’s growth. By studying these tree rings patterns an archaeologist can learn the date of wooden objects.