

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE



In History, evidence is the information obtained from sources that is valuable for a particular inquiry.

Evidence can be used to help construct a historical narrative, to prove or disprove a conclusion or to support a hypothesis.

Historical evidence can be found in both primary and secondary sources

Primary Sources

Objects or documents created or written during the time being investigated or by a person with firsthand experience

- Autobiographies
- Diaries and journals
- Official records
- Newspaper articles such as eyewitness reports
- Photographs
- Creative works including art, poetry and literature
- Objects such as pottery, bones, statues and medals
- Letters and emails
- Speeches, interviews and recordings
- Original documents and certificates

Secondary Sources

Accounts about the past that are created after the time being investigated or by a person without firsthand experience

- Biographies
- Commentaries
- Websites
- Encyclopedias
- Historical movies
- Magazine articles
- Newspaper articles that interpret the past
- Reports and research studies
- reviews
- textbooks