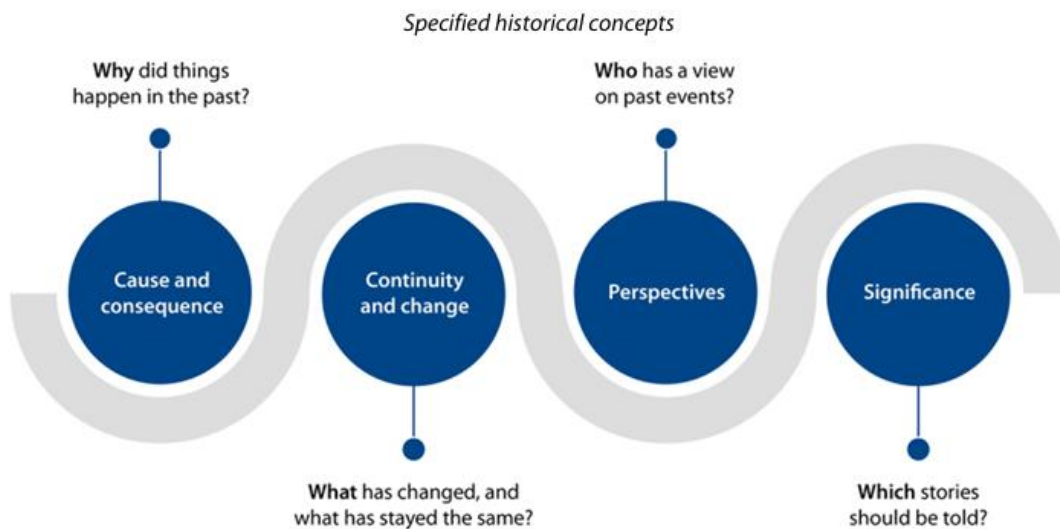


Hello Yr 1s!

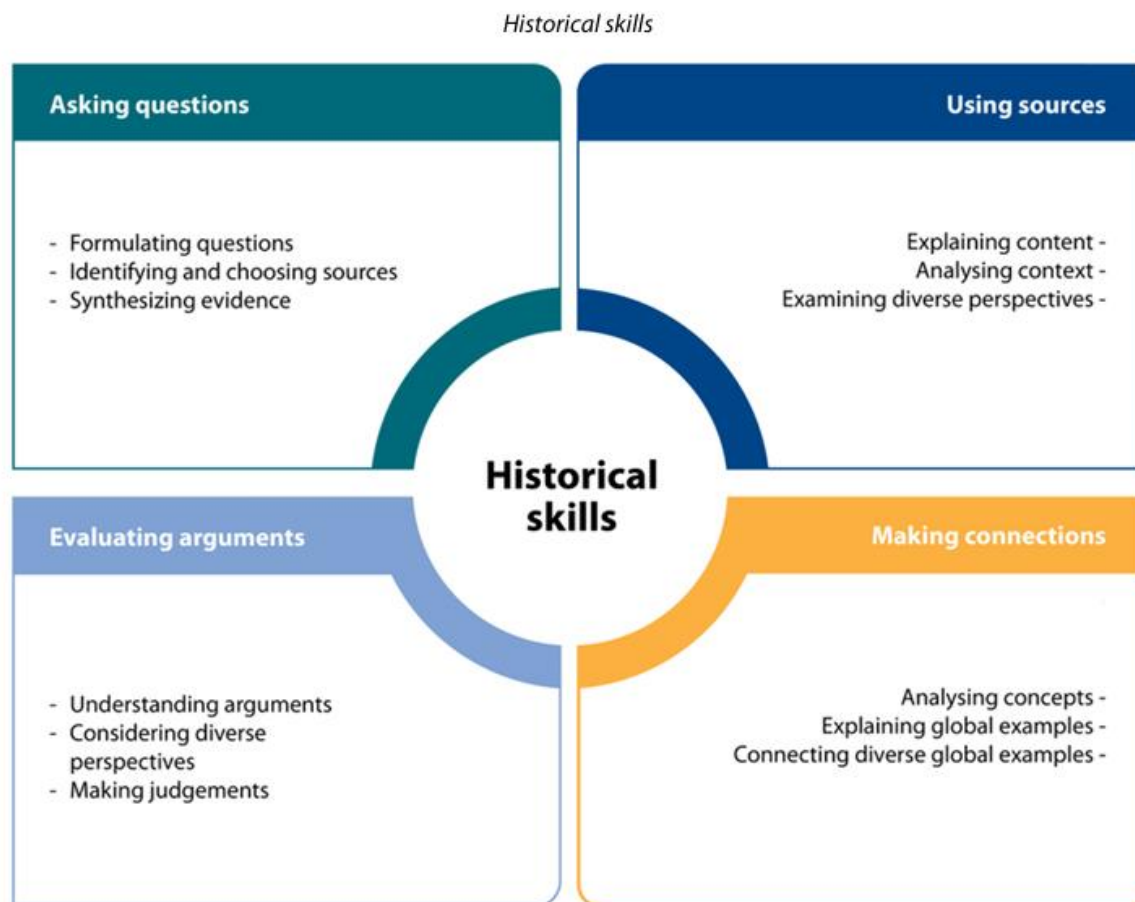
You are taking IB History at a time of significant change. After a decade of the previous curriculum, you will be the first cohort encountering updated topics, a revised course plan and new assessment reflecting the recent changes to the IB History curriculum. I'm looking forward to sharing the new topics and course syllabus with you in September!

For now, it might be helpful to know that the heart of this course is about each of you becoming a practitioner of history or a student historian which means "doing history" rather than passively consuming it. You will be using *historical thinking concepts* (see below) to explore the puzzle of the past and recognize that most of what has taken place in the past is understood differently based on what evidence, interpretations, and stories about it, one has access to.



One accessible way into the past is through the present. My advice to you over the summer is to begin to pay attention to what's going on in the world right now. What do you notice that matters to you and you want to learn more about? IB History units will span global, regional, and national themes, so no matter what issues you find significant today, uncovering background knowledge about them may be relevant to the types of analysis we attempt to tackle in the course. Make sure you read with healthy skepticism and question what is being presented to you. Pay attention to where you are coming across information or news about current events. Consider how credible (trustworthy and reliable) each source is. Think about what seems to be missing or additionally necessary to know before forming an opinion about the issue. In the fast-paced world of today we see people being too quick to form an opinion on every topic they encounter. This summer, you can practice observation without the need to arrive at an immediate position. Coming to a position on an issue should take time because to become familiar with a topic and fully understand it requires that.

Another related area of prep this summer is considering what significant debatable topic in the past century or so you might want to pursue for your historical investigation. You might be led to this through your interest in a current event and the desire to better learn the history that led to the present situation. Regardless of how you find a topic, it is something that you get to choose as your individual focus and requires substantial reading and background knowledge. Often students find that they don't know what a debatable topic might be, so my advice is to pick an era, movement, policy (decision), or individual etc. that you are interested in and begin reading what you can to become more informed on the topic. This type of background research often leads to an inquiry question when you find that different sources (such as historians) might view the event or figure differently. See below for *historical skills* that you will be developing through your investigation and other units we do together.



History informs identity, culture, society, politics, and the relationships between individuals and communities. Through the course, the hope is you will come to understand and appreciate history in all these dimensions. I look forward to starting the course with you in the fall. Have a wonderful summer of rest, exploration and reflection. 😊

Mrs. Mourad