

Eastbrook school History department - Using sources in history

If you are trying to find out about a historical event that took place in the past then you will look at sources of information.

A historical source is information about the past and can come in lots of formats from a book, a statue, a picture or a letter. If it gives you information about the past it is a source.

Question: Can you describe what a historical source is?

- I think a historical source is...

People who study history and sources are called Historians. Historians have to look at sources and work out what they can learn from a source about the past. You are now an Eastbrook School Historian! See what you can learn from the source below.

- a. Read the source
- b. Complete the table
- c. What conclusions have you reached; can you make an inference?

a. The source- The first description of mob football played in London on Shrove Tuesday, written by William Fitzstephen in 1174

After lunch all the youth of the city go out onto the fields to take part in the ball game. The students of each are have their own ball. The workers from each city craft also carry balls. Older citizens, fathers and wealthy men come on horseback to watch the juniors competing and to revive their own youth. You can see their inner passions aroused as they watch the action and get caught up in the fun.

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b. The table

Is this source useful for telling me about ...?	Yes	Not sure	No	Detail or section from the source that suggests the source is useful for telling me about this issue
1. ... what mob football was like in London?				
2. ... how many people got hurt in mob football?				
3. ... how common mob football was in London?				
4. ... education in medieval times?				
5. ... how business was organised?				
6. ... different classes of people in medieval London?				
7. ... life in the 12th century (1100s)?				
8. ... what women did in London?				
9. ... whether medieval people had fun?				
10. whether mob football was played all over the country?				

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c. Conclusions

Historians don't just look at sources **they reach conclusions**. See if you can record one or more conclusion you have reached from studying this source

From looking at this source from 1174 I have learnt that.....

The evidence I have for this conclusion is... (Add the detail from the source that helped you reach this conclusion)

Challenge yourself

Historians also have to decide if the information tells them enough! Would this source be useful enough about...?

Learning about sport in the 1174?	Yes	No	Explain your choice...
Learning about the lives of women?	Yes	No	Explain your choice...