

## How to be a historian

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Being a historian is surprisingly similar to being a detective. The first and most important thing both need to do, is be curious and ask important questions like, “What happened here?”

Then comes the hard part – finding evidence...

Archaeology is a good place to start. You explore an excavation like a detective explores a crime scene. Archaeologists dig for artefacts which are objects made by people in the past. Although you often end up with much more mud on you than a detective would!

Like a detective you need to sort your evidence. Primary sources are things that people made or wrote during the time in history you’re learning about – like a coin, or a diary. If you don’t like digging though, you can find artefacts in museums and archives too.

Secondary sources are things that were written after an event has happened, by people who weren’t there at the time - like your history textbook. And they’re not always right!

Both historians and detectives need to think critically about the clues they find. You need to question your evidence, don’t immediately believe everything you see!

At the end of the day both historians and detectives need to look at all the evidence together. You won’t always know exactly what happened, because you weren’t there, but a good historian, like a good detective, tries their best to get as close to the truth as possible.

