



# **UNIT ONE**

**History as a Lens to the Past**

# What to expect...

- This chapter deals with what is history, how one studies history, and how things in the past influences life in the present. We also look at how things such as artifacts and old pictures can help us learn about what life was like years ago.

- **Key Terms**

- **History**
- **Collective past**
- **Individual past**
- **Historical method**
- **Primary Source**
- **Secondary Source**



# Our Past...

- Many things can tell us about our past. Things such as old documents, photographs, art work, stories, artifacts, and even music can tell us all kinds of things about the past!
- They can tell us about how people made a living, what clothes they wore, entertainment, what they ate, and the conditions they lived in, just to name a few!

# Individual vs Collective Past

- **What is the difference between individual past and collective past?**
- **Individual past:** your individual past is made up of the major life events and experiences in your life that shape **you and your memories**. It is the personal history of an individual. Who you are, where you come from, what has influenced you are the important parts of your history.
- **Collective past:** this is the collective history of a **group of people**. When you examine pieces of information that make up a memory of a people, you are examining their collective past.

# Artifacts, Pictures, Documents...

When looking at an artifact from the past, it's important to keep a few things in mind!

Ask yourself: **How old is this item?**

- If it is a **picture**, think about things such as: **who is in the picture, what is the physical setting, what are people wearing, what are they doing?**
- If it is an **artifact**, think about **what is it used for, was it man-made or machine made, are there any marks or engravings on it, did it need electricity?**
- The answers to these simple questions can tell us a lot about the past!

**Okak. Moravian settlement, pre-1919**





(OKak)  
An Inuk Hunter











# The Historical Method



- Just as crime scene investigators use a specific method to find out answers about a crime they are investigating, historians use a specific method to find out answers to historical questions that they are investigating.

# Historical Method: Four Major Steps

(Page 15 in your text book)

<b>Step One: Pose a good historical question</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ask questions such as the 5 Ws and How?</li><li>• what questions can be researched?</li></ul>
<b>Step Two: Collect reliable information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what sources are available?</li><li>• which sources have the information you need?</li><li>• how reliable is the source (are they biased?)</li></ul>
<b>Step Three: Organize and evaluate the information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how will you organize your information?</li><li>• what patterns or ideas come out from the information?</li></ul>
<b>Step Four: Interpret the information and present conclusions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what conclusion(s) can you draw from your research?</li><li>• how will you give credit to the sources of information you used? (ex. books/interviews/websites)</li></ul>

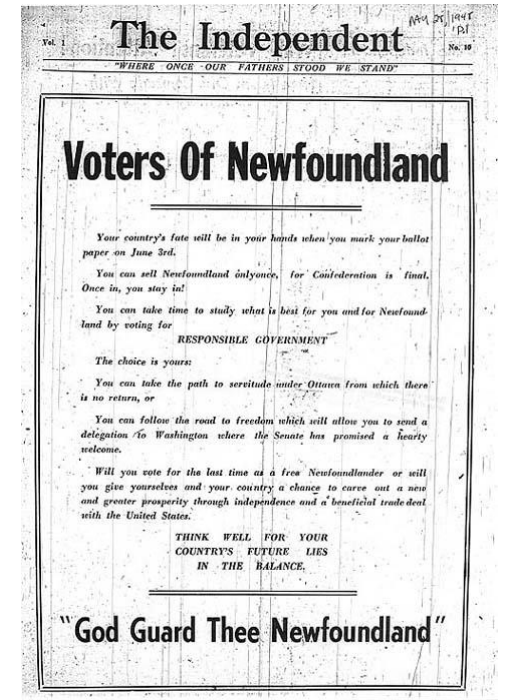
# Sources of Information

- Information can be collected from many different sources, such as: the school's library, the Internet, books, newspapers, museums, and even video clips!
- This information can be divided into two different categories: Primary Sources, and Secondary Sources



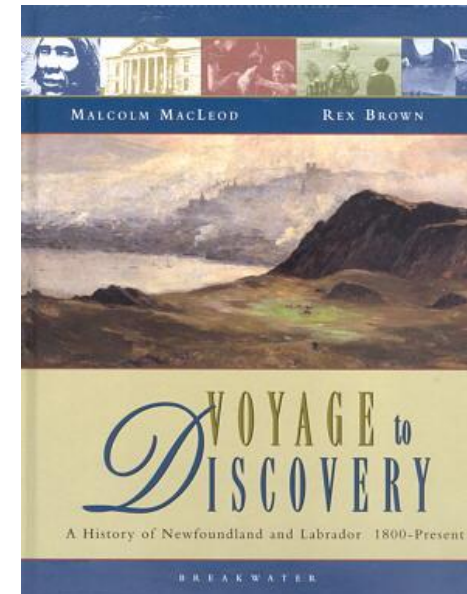
# Primary Sources

- A **primary source** is a first hand account made at the time that an event occurs.
- Examples of primary sources: Journals, Newspapers, Letters, News film footage, Artifacts (articles of clothing, furniture, tools), official records, etc.



# Secondary Sources

- A **secondary source** is an interpretation of an event based on information gathered from primary sources.
- Examples of secondary sources: Articles that reference original documents, Textbooks, Essays written about an event/person, etc.





# Where can you find this information?

- 1. **Libraries and Museums:** The QE2 , the Rooms
- 2. **Archives:** provincial archives in the Rooms
- 3. **Monuments:** Echos of Valour,
- 4. **Historic Sites:** Red Bay. L'Anse aux Meadows
- 5. **Internet:** [www.heritage.nf.ca](http://www.heritage.nf.ca) (**Wikipedia is *not* a reliable source unless claims have been properly sources and checked!!!**)
- 6. **Oral history:** stories, songs

