

What is History?

Sometimes people think that history is no more than “the study of the past.” History *does* focus on past events, past people, and past societies. Yet there are two problems with that definition.

First, if history is the study of the past, then it is much too large a subject. The past includes _____ that has happened – the birth, growth and death of every living thing, and all the events that have occurred on the _____. How can we study all the past?

On what does history really focus? It doesn't focus on every event in the past, only those that _____. Also, there needs to be some type of _____ that such an event occurred. Without evidence – some proof that the event happened – for people to interpret and write about, there is no _____.

Is history really a “_____” subject? If history can only exist through the study of evidence, then it is still a very active subject. Historians often find new evidence, or reinterpret old evidence in light of new knowledge or in light of our current _____. As a result history is often revised or rewritten, which makes it an evolving “_____” subject.

So here is a more accurate definition of history:
