

HISTORY: WHY AND HOW

I. What is History?

- A. Widely accepted definition: History is the study of the past.
- B. Better: History is the story of the important people and events of the past.
- C. Best: History is the study of *the world we live in* by looking at its past to see how it came to be the way it is, especially through the actions of important people.

II. Why Do We Study History?

- A. The proper reason to study history is to better know and understand *the world we live in*.
 - 1. When people think that history is about *the past*, they study it to learn *about the past*, and they lose sight of how the past is connected to the present. This leaves people feeling that history just does not matter. *But it does!*
 - 2. The story of the most important people and events from the past helps us to understand how the world came to be the way it is now. It also teaches us important lessons about how human beings can thrive on Earth. Finally, it can inspire us to lead the best lives we can by applying those lessons in our own personal lives