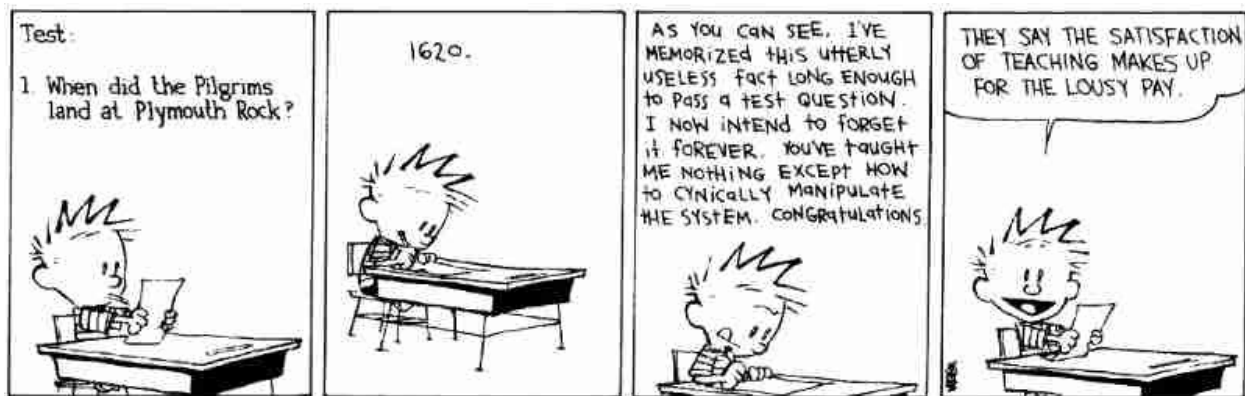


LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

I. A New Approach to History

A. What is history?

1. People usually think that history is “the study of the past.” No wonder most people don’t care about it. *We don’t live in the past!* We live in the present.
2. History is, however, a much more valuable subject than most people realize. The ancient Greeks invented it because they wanted to understand the world they lived in. Likewise, Thomas Jefferson called history “that knowledge...most useful to us.”



History is not about memorizing information about the past (the way *Calvin* has been taught in this comic strip). It is really about learning about *the World We Live in (tWWLi)*.

3. The definition of history used in *History At Our House* is: **“History is the revelation and explanation of the world we live in.”**
 - a) We usually only see what is right around us, especially when we are young, because our parents are taking care of us. We need the world *revealed* to us beyond that comfortable space, so we can get ready to live in *the world*.
 - b) The second part of this definition is “explanation.” Why is the world the way that it is? Well, it became what it is *in the past*. History shows us the events that shaped the world into what it is—so that we can make sense of the world we see around us.