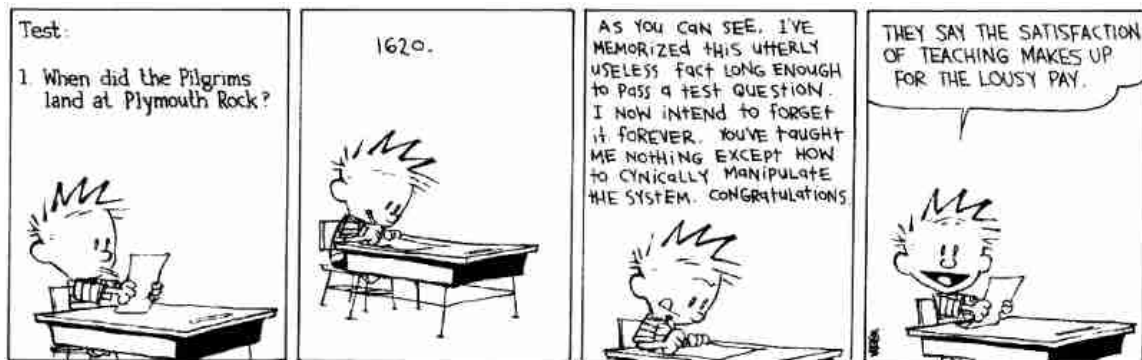


AMERICA AND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

I. The Missing Question

A. What does history have to do with real life?

1. The normal view of history is that it is “the study of the past.” If that’s all it is, and we live in the *present*, then what does history have to do with “real life”?
2. The feeling people have about history not helping us with real life is captured by a great *Calvin and Hobbes* comic strip:



3. Traditional history focusses on a basic set of questions: *who*, *what*, *where*, and *when*.
4. *Who—the Pilgrims, did what—landed, where—at Plymouth Rock, when—1620.*
5. Many people believe that the meaning of history lies in the question: *why*?
6. Notice, however, that if we ask the question “*Why* did the Pilgrims land a Plymouth rock?” we are still only talking about the *past*.
7. We still don’t have an answer to the question: what does this have to do with life in 2020?

B. WDISUATWWLI?

1. One version of the missing question that Calvin would like an answer to in the comic strip is: *WDISUATWWLI?*
2. “WDISUATWWLI” stands for *What Does It Show Us About The World We Live In?*
3. So the Pilgrims came to America in 1620. *What does that show us about the world we live in?*
4. Another way to think of it is: *What for? What—is such knowledge—for?* How can it help us to better understand the world?
5. If we learn history properly an event like the landing of the Pilgrims can be a part of a *revelation and explanation of the world we live in*. (As we will learn, America would not be the country that it is unless they had come!)
6. That is what we will be working towards in History At Our House. I hope that sounds good to you!