

# HOW CAN I TELL IF SOMETHING IS HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT TO MY COMMUNITY?

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*Historical significance involves evaluating what is important to learn about the past. Historians use different criteria to help them make judgments about the historical significance of people, places, things, and events.*

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## ASK:

- Did it result in change for my community?
  - Did it have long-lasting consequences for my community?
  - Does it reveal something important about issues my community has faced in the past or present?
  - Does it play an important role in stories told by my community?
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## TIPS:

- A person who is historically significant does not need to be famous. We can examine the lives of ordinary people in the past to gain a better idea of what daily life was like.
- Historical significance is not permanent. Someone or something that was once considered to be historically significant might not be significant today.
- What one person considers to be historically significant might not be the same for someone else. Historical significance can depend on the communities you are part of.
- You must be able to explain why someone or something is historically significant. It's not enough to just say "it's in our history textbook" or "I'm interested in it."