

Tools to Organize and Analyze the Past: Significance

What's the **BIG** deal?

- Historians investigate the past by (1) framing problems to study, (2) selecting and analyzing available evidence, (3) organizing their information, and (4) creating the account.
- Four tools that historians use to organize information include significance, social institutions, temporal frames (time), and spatial scales (space).
- Ideas about significance can vary among historians,
- We can determine whether an event is significant by constructing and applying rules or theories about what makes an event important.
- Organizing an account by significance is important for both the historian and reader.