

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK THREE (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: JSS1

TOPIC: SOURCES OF HISTORY(1)

MEANING OF SOURCES OF HISTORY

Sources of history are the channels through which historical information are collected, studied and made known for future actions. It also refers to the point of reference from which historical information or data can be derived OR the channels and avenues through which people can access information about the past with respect to a particular people or a place.

Sources of history can be objects or humans. Sources can also be grouped into **tangible and intangible objects**. **Tangible objects** are things we can observe or perceive with our physical senses such as historical sites, tourist sites, museums, caves, institutions, mountains, rivers. etc. The **intangible objects** are things we cannot feel or perceive with our senses,.

CATEGORIES OF SOURCES OF HISTORY

Sources of history can be classified into three categories: primary sources, secondary sources and tertiary sources.

Primary sources: are first-hand or original materials from the time frame/historical period or figure being studied. These include:

- A. Oral tradition:** These are sources that rely on storytelling of important events through word of mouth. It is information given to younger generations through verbal means.
- B. Artefacts:** These are objects, architectural constructions and tools used in a particular age in history. It is an ornament, tool or any other object made by a human, especially one which is of historical significance.
- C. Legends and myths:** Myths and legends are traditional and usually imaginary stories of a particular society which are passed on from one generation to another. Examples of myths and legends are the myth of Oduduwa of Yoruba land, the Bayaggida of Habe, the legend of King Arthur, the myth of Pandora's box etc.
- D. Folklore :** This is the oral history of a given people. It also refers to the traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth. It is particularly meant to preserve their cultural beliefs and practices.
- E. Archival materials:** Historical archives are storehouses of history. It can also refer to a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people. These archives can be museums , libraries and caves.

F. Tourist sites: Tourist sites are wonderful sites or points of attraction with historical value. They are usually considered a means of getting money for a country.

Examples of tourist sites are St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Obudu Mountain Resort in Cross River State, the Yankari Games Resort in Bauchi, Buckingham Palace in England, the Colosseum in Rome, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, The Great Wall of China etc.

G. Personal Diaries: These are personal documentations of a person's life experiences either on a daily or weekly basis which can serve as sources of history.

Secondary Sources of History: These are historical sources which derive their information from first-hand or primary sources. Most of what we know today as history comes from this source. Secondary historical sources include:

- A. Textbooks
- B. Articles
- C. Government publications
- D. Biographies
- E. Autobiographies

Tertiary Historical Sources: These are documents gotten from secondary sources. They include:

- A. Student's Projects:
- B. Bulletins
- C. Memoranda

HOMEWORK

1. What are sources of history?
2. List and briefly explain the three categories of historical sources, giving three examples under each.