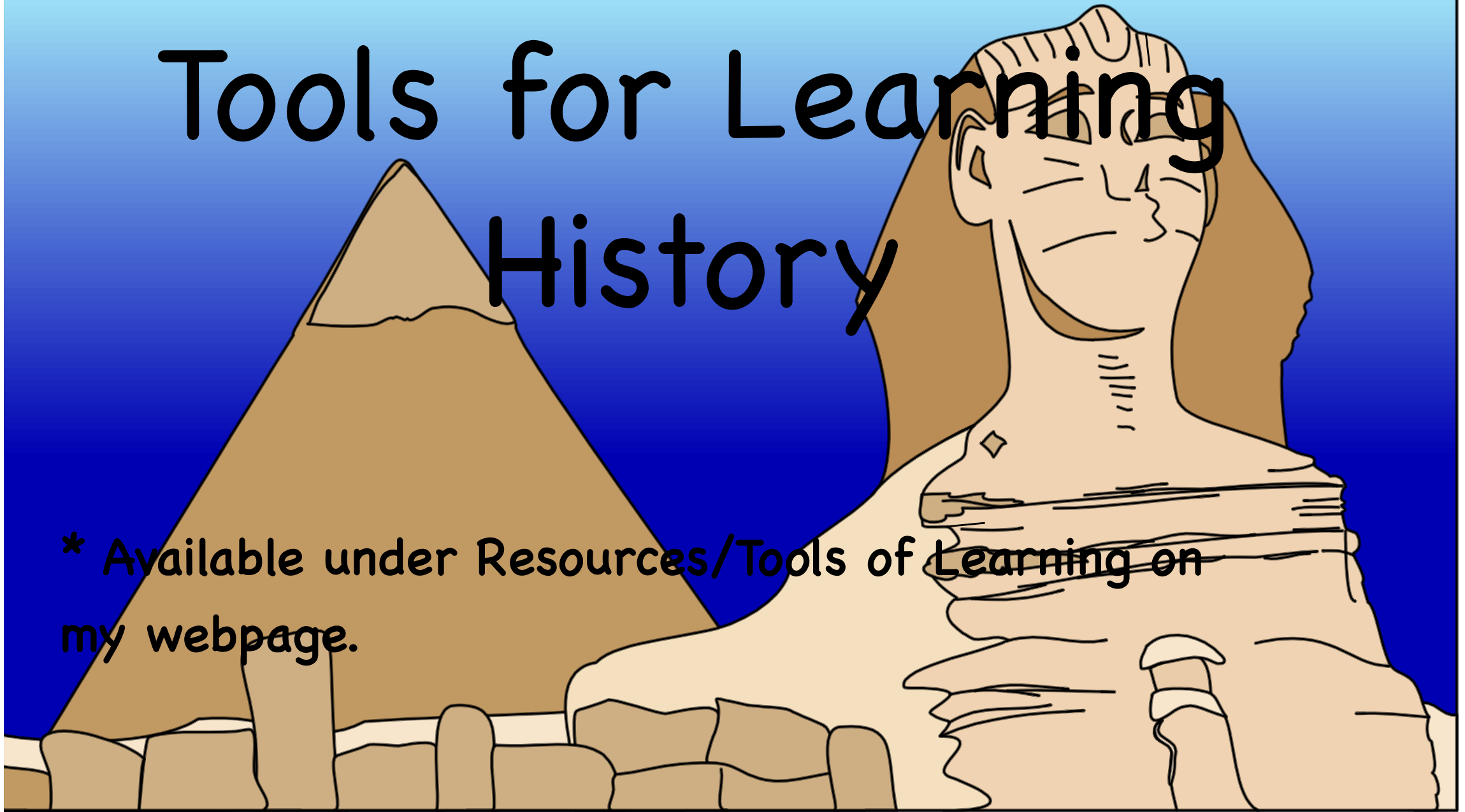


Themes of History: Tools for Learning History

* Available under Resources/Tools of Learning on
my webpage.



We use the themes of history to understand the importance of historic events, periods, and people. There are 6 themes:

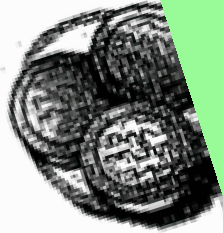
1. Geography
2. Culture
3. Economics
4. Government
5. Belief Systems
6. Science & Technology

What do you think each of these themes mean?

Let's take a look....

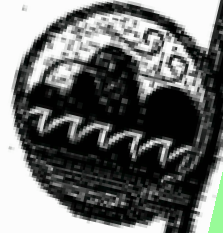
Economics

Economics includes the ways that people use their limited resources to satisfy their needs and desires. It also refers to the ways that societies produce wealth and how they organize labor.



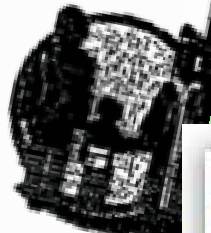
Geography

Geography refers to the characteristics of a physical place, the ways that environment affects human life, and the ways that humans change the environment. It also refers to the movement of people, goods, and ideas from place to place.



Culture

Culture is the way of life that a society or group shares. It includes the way people act, the way they express themselves, and the way they are organized.



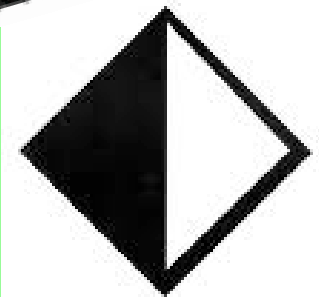
Government

Government refers to the system of laws and authority that a society uses to guide or control its members.



Belief Systems

Belief systems are often religions, which are beliefs in a god or gods. Belief systems may also be systems of ethics, or principles of right and wrong.



Science & Technology

The theme of science and technology includes discoveries, inventions, and improved methods of doing things.



Use your own experiences:

Geography Have you ever traveled to a place where the landscape or climate was completely different from the landscape or climate of your home? How was it different? How were the lives of the people there affected by their landscape and climate?

Culture Have you ever been in a situation where you had to change the way you acted because the people around you expected different behavior? How quickly did you change? How did you feel about changing?

Economics In most societies, people earn money by working in jobs that provide goods and services. The amount of money people earn depends partially on the type of work they do. What considerations will help you decide what kind of work to do?

Government Think of some rules that your family has. Who made the rules? How do those rules affect the way your family lives together? Have any of your family's rules changed as you grew older? How?

Belief Systems How do you decide what is the right or wrong thing to do? Where did you get your ideas about behaviors that are right or wrong?

Science & Technology In your opinion, what is the one invention that has most improved your life? How would your life be different without this invention?



Asking Historical Questions:



Geography Throughout history, how have societies adjusted to their surroundings? How have they attempted to overcome obstacles created by geography?

Culture How have cultural changes come about throughout history? Why did some changes come about by force and other changes come about through voluntary choices?

Economics Throughout history, how have societies acted in order to gain control of more resources, goods, and services? What activities have societies used to produce wealth?

Government How have societies developed laws to control the behavior of their members? How have societies enforced their laws? How and why have laws been changed?

Belief Systems Throughout history, how have humans used their belief systems to understand the relationship between themselves and the entire universe? How have humans responded to people with different belief systems?

Science & Technology How have scientific inventions and discoveries improved the lives of people throughout history? How have they caused problems?