

WHAT MAKES AN EVENT SIGNIFICANT?

In every history course you've taken, your teacher has likely asked you to look at particular people, dates, and events that they have chosen. All history teachers have to make choices like these because it would be impossible to talk about absolutely everything that is relevant to a particular historical event in a one-year course. So what makes an event significant? What makes some events in history worth remembering?

- Think about what has happened locally, nationally, and globally in the past year. Write down an event that happened in their town, their state, in the United States, and in the world in the past year.
- Once you've finished, write a few words or a sentence to describe each event and why you thought it was worth writing down.
- Now, pick a country other than the United States and write down how people in that country might view each of the events you listed.
- Your teacher may ask you to share some of the events you identified as well as your thinking about the events' importance.

Given what you have heard and learned in this exercise so far, what do you think makes one event more significant than another? If you were a history teacher, how would you decide what events, areas, or eras of history to include in your course?

