

## Discovering History

How can we find out about the past? The quick answer is the text book. However, what if it isn't in the text? What next? An encyclopedia? What if it isn't there? What if you're curious about great-uncle Horace - you know, the one that left the family the old radio that never worked? What if you're curious about his teen years in the 1920s? Now you've got a problem. How do you find out about the old geezer?

S

S

S

All of the above are ways of determining what exists in the **historical record**, or all of the information which we have available to us about the past. These pieces of the historical record are known as **evidence**.

Def. - **evidence** - any piece of information which offers proof of something have existed.

All evidence can be broken down into four general types: 1. ORAL or AUDIO, 2. WRITTEN, 3. VISUAL and 4. MATERIAL.

A. Oral or audio evidence is any evidence which can be heard. e.g. radio broadcasts, recorded music, word of mouth.

B. Written evidence is any evidence which has been preserved through the written word. e.g. magazine articles, poems, diary entries, forms

C. Visual evidence is any evidence which is primarily based upon visual images (pictures). e.g. cartoons, television, movies.

D. Material evidence is any evidence which can tell us something about the past, but which doesn't rely on words or images. Another way of thinking of physical evidence is as stuff e.g. statues, carvings, skeletons, pottery.