



# FOOTNOTING HISTORY

TEACHING RESOURCES

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Below are sample questions which can be used to spark discussion about podcasts or as the starting point for homework/project assignments.

### General Questions

- What type of sources did the host use? (Primary? Secondary?)
- What makes a good source?
- For primary sources, how important is it to consider the original intended audience?
- What sort of biases might a source have?
- Why is it important to consider sources from the culture of the person(s) or event(s) at the center of the topic?
- Which do you think is more difficult to work with: too few sources about a topic or too many conflicting sources?
- How does the host address areas of history where there is no consensus or we have no known answer?
- How did this/these episode(s) challenge what you thought you knew about life in the past?

### Questions for Specific Episodes

Series: Black History and/or Women's History.

- Which stories depicted in this/these series do you think should be incorporated in to the main curriculum?
- What adversities did the people discussed in these episodes face? How did they respond to them?

Episode: Pocahontas.

How does the treatment of Pocahontas in pop culture (and by companies like Disney) differ from what we actually know about the real woman? How does this episode show why it is important to consider who creates the historical narrative?

Episode: Mohenjo Daro: Living City, Mound of the Dead.

What does this episode tell us about the role of language in the study of history? How do scholars learn about a civilization they cannot fully access with words?

Episode: Anne Neville and the Wars of the Roses.

What does this episode tell us about the role of women in the Wars of the Roses? What can we deduce from exploring the lack of mention of Anne Neville in the historical record? How would you set about constructing a biography of a historically-significant person with little footprint in existing records from the period?

Episode: Prester John.

How did this episode change your understanding of mythology and mythological people? How many people do you think believed that Prester John really lived?



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

Episode: [The History of Tikka Masala](#).

How does this episode make listeners confront the idea that what we think we know about the history of something, may not be its actual history?

Episodes: [The Parnell Affair](#), [King Henry I of England and the White Ship](#), and/or [A Royal Son: Henry the Young King](#).

How can personal scandals or tragedies influence politics? What are some more modern examples of this happening?

Episodes: [Mulan](#).

How can the various incarnations of the story of Mulan help us understand changing ideas about gender and cultural identity in China?

Episodes: [The Hunchback of Notre Dame](#).

What can this episode teach us about perceptions of disability? What does it say about the influence literature can have on the world?

Episodes: [Revolutionary Movies, Parts I and II](#).

What obligation to filmmakers have to the truth when creating period projects? How much can a historical film really tell us about the past? How much does a historical film actually tell us about the people who created it and the period in which it was made?

Episode: [The Male Witch](#).

Did you know that men were tried for witchcraft in medieval and early modern Europe? How do you think their experiences differed from that of the women put on trial for the same reasons?

Episodes: [Empress, Strategist... Saint? Irene of Byzantium](#) and/or [Warrior, Wife, and Mother: The Story of Sichelgaita of Salerno](#).

How do these episodes shine a light on women as leaders in the past?

Episode: [From Hwaet to the Ring Shout: Lorenzo Dow Turner](#).

What does Lorenzo Dow Turner's work tell us about the importance of understanding languages and cultures? How can the study of the past help us work to preserve the present for the future?

Episode: [The Martyrs of Thanet](#)

What does this episode tell us about historical interactions between different religious and cultural groups?