

Photo 1
History of Photography

Name _____

You earned _____ out of 25 possible points.

Worksheet 2
Using History as a Method

Historical Context - considers significant historical events and important ideas of a period of time, usually when the artwork was made

Our definition of “art” and the notion that it should be studied is a fairly recent phenomenon. Giorgio Vasari’s *Lives of the Most Excellent Italian Architects, Painters, and Sculptors*, written at the height of the Renaissance in 1550, is considered by many to be the first art history book. However, it wasn’t until the modern era, and the development of more advanced methods of printing text and image together, that art history became a field of study. Before the development of modern printing methods, art scholars had to study works of art in person, which meant extensive travel and access to private collections. Museums, and the idea that art collections should be available to the general public, did not begin to emerge until the 19th century. And, the first history of photography was written in 1937 - 100 years after its invention!

Art history as a discipline combines the study of art and the context under which it was made. The terms listed in the box below are items that the viewer must consider when using historical context to better understand a work of art. Define these terms using www.artlex.com.

Term	Artlex Definition
Artist	_____ _____
Chronology	_____ _____
Period	_____ _____
Style	_____ _____
Provenance	_____ _____

Define the term "context" and describe the three arenas of consideration to a work's context.

context -

Arenas of consideration when examining context:

1. _____ -

2. _____ -

3. _____ -

Now demonstrate your ability to better understand a photograph using historical context. Provide the name of the artist, the title of the work and the date it was made. As you consider the meaning of the photo, ask yourself the following questions:

What major events happened around the time this photo was made? What influence, if any, did this photograph have on events that occurred about the time it was made, or after? Does this photo serve as an example of a new technological invention? Does this photo reflect a change in perspective? Where was this photo taken? Does knowing the place where this photo was made inform our understanding of the image, or the subject it depicts?

Title, artist, date - _____
