Lecture: In The Beginning.....

Learning Target: I can describe what history is and how historians discover the “truth.”
History: What is it?

• How do you define History?
History: What is it?

1) Definition: A recorded record of past events with an explanation of their causes

2) How can history be recorded?
   A) Written
   B) Tape recordings/records/CDs
   C) Video/movie/DVD
   D) Oral Histories???
   E) Artifacts???
   F) Others???
B-Problems with deciphering what is the “truth”

1) Prejudices in writing down events
   A) Prejudice is defined here as what the person’s position was when the event was recorded
   B) A person’s political ideology
   C) Some cultures did not have a written alphabet
   D) Early civilizations did not write things down
B-Problems with deciphering what is the “truth”

2) Mis-interpretation of artifacts and writings

3) Much of early human history is NOT history
   A) Archeology
   B) Sociology
   C) Anthropology

4) Omission
C-Types of Sources

1) Primary Sources
   A) Actual documents
   B) Unedited video/recordings
C-Types of Sources

2) Secondary Sources
   A) Items that cite, comment or build on primary sources
   B) Analysis and interpretation is involved