

Reading Comprehension Practice: excerpt from These Truths

Directions: Using the blue "Think Aloud" bookmarks, complete 4 or more of the prompts in the margins of the reading below and then answer the two questions that follow based on what the reading taught you.

Most of what once existed is gone. Flesh decays, wood rots, walls fall, books burn. Nature takes one toll, malice another. History is the study of what remains, what's left behind, which can be almost anything, so long as it survives the ravages of time and war: letters, diaries, DNA, gravestones, coins, television broadcasts, paintings, DVDs, viruses, abandoned Facebook pages, the transcripts of congressional hearings, the ruins of buildings. Some of these things are saved by chance or accident, like the one house that, as if by miracle, still stands after a hurricane razes a town. But most of what historians study survives because it was purposely kept—placed in a box and carried up to an attic, shelved in a library, stored in a museum, photographed or recorded, downloaded to a server—carefully preserved and even catalogued. All of it, together, the accidental and the intentional, this archive of the past—remains, relics, a repository of knowledge, the evidence of what came before, this inheritance—is called the historical record, and it is maddeningly uneven, asymmetrical, and unfair.

1. If you were to give the excerpt a meaningful title, what would it be?
2. The writer ends by saying "*the historical record*"... "*is maddeningly uneven, asymmetrical, and unfair.*" What is one example you can think of in American or World history that fits this description?