Writing Historical Identifications

PRACTICE FOR THE HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT

Identifications

- Identifications are a short paragraph that explains what a term is and why it is significant to the topic of study.

- Identifications test both your content knowledge and your critical thinking.

Description/Definition	**Significance**
• Who, what, when, where? • Describe what your term is and provide as many details about the term as possible.	• Explain how the term is significant to the understanding of the topic. • Connect to a SPICE Element.

Example

Hernan Cortes was a Spanish Conquistador who conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521. He became the governor of New Spain after winning the territory for the Spanish crown. Cortes was politically and economically significant to the history of Mexico because he was responsible for establishing the Mexico as a colony of Spain. He was socially significant because he had a son with a native woman. This set the scene for racial and cultural integration that shaped modern Mexico.

Practice

1. As a class, we will write a definition for "La Castas"
2. With a partner, write an identification for "El Grito de Dolores"

La Castas

A system of racial identification in Mexico that was put into place after the Spanish Conquest. This created a social structure where the color of your skin determined what class you were in. La Castas is significant in Mexican history because it spurred racial superiority and inferiority and buried the lower classes in poverty as the upper classes received tax deductions and were given the best jobs and the best land. This class structure led to the racial and economic inequality that is still seen in Mexico today.