**Historical Thinking Chart: Think & Link**

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| **Historical Reading Skills** | **Questions to ask yourself** | **Words to describe your answers** |
| **The Source**   * Identify the author of the document. * Identify type of document being analyzed. | * Who wrote this? * When was it written? * Where was it written? * Is it a primary or secondary source? | * This document was written by... * This document is a primary/secondary source because… * This document was written during the... |
| **The Description**   * Describe what you read about. * Describe artwork. | * Describe the main ideas. * List supporting details. * Describe a work of art. | * The most important issue discussed is… * The author uses these details to support the main idea… * The artwork shows... |
| **The Background/Context**     * Use your background knowledge of the time period to describe the events surrounding the creation of the document. | * When and where was the document created? * What was different then? What was the same? * How might the circumstances of the time influence the information in the document? | * Based on the background information I understand this document differently because… * The author might have been influenced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (historical context). * This document might not give me the whole picture because... |
| **Perspective**   * Using your background information, make an educated guess about why the author of the document created it. * Decide whether the source (author) is biased on neutral. | * What is the author’s perspective? * What claims does the author make? * What language (words, phrases, images, symbols) does the author use to persuade the audience? * Is the author biased or neutral? | * I think the author chose the words in order to… * The author is trying to convince me… * The author claims… * The evidence used to support the author’s claim is... |
| **The Reaction**   * Describe how people may have reacted to the document during the time period it was created. | * What background information do you have that explains how people reacted to this document when it was first created? | * People living during this time thought\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the document. |
| **Compare and Contrast**   * Describe what other documents say. * Do the documents agree? If not, why? * Decide which documents are most reliable | * Decide which is more probable by comparing documents to each other * Recognize differences between accounts | * The author agrees/disagrees with… * These documents all agree/ disagree about… * Another document to consider might be... |