

## Clue A



- 1 What questions do you have about these bones? Write them down.

In 1956 this skull was found on the banks of the River Ouse, near the village of Riccall in Yorkshire. A farmer digging his crops felt his spade hit something hard. He scraped away the soil and found ... a human skeleton! The police were called. But they decided that these were not MODERN bones so they called the

ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

The archaeologists dug trenches to see what else they could find. They found 46 more human skeletons. They could not identify the sex of all the skeletons but there were at least 28 men, 2 women and 5 children aged 5–12. They checked back in local history books and discovered that other bones had been found at the same spot in the 1830s and that ten more human skulls had been found in 1880. Much later on, in the 1980s, they found a further 23 skeletons.

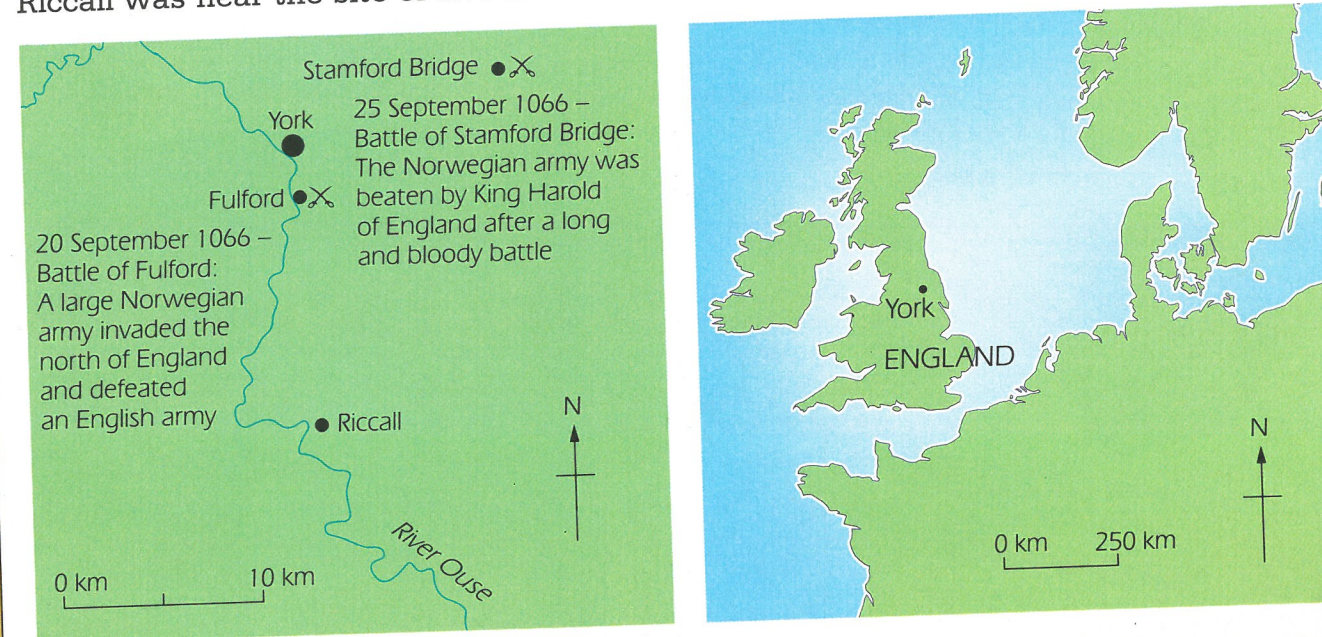
So the enquiry became: Who were these people, and how did they die? That will be your enquiry too. And you will use the same clues as the archaeologists. What will you make of these clues?

## Who were these people and how did they die?

- 2 Here are the next two clues to help you with this enquiry. Do they give you any ideas about who the people in Clue A were and how they might have died?

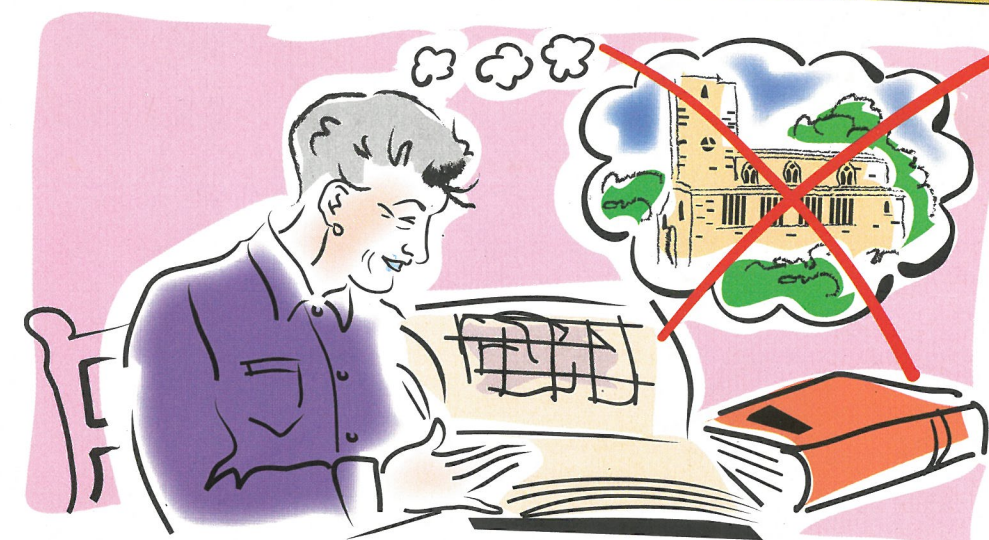
## Clue B

Riccall was near the site of two famous battles that were fought in 1066.



## Clue C

Historians checked whether there had ever been a church near the field where the bones had been found. There had not.



- 3 From the EVIDENCE in Clues A–C you probably already have a possible idea of who these people were and how they died. Historians call a possible answer a HYPOTHESIS. Before you turn the page write down your hypothesis.



Use Clues D–H to test your hypothesis.

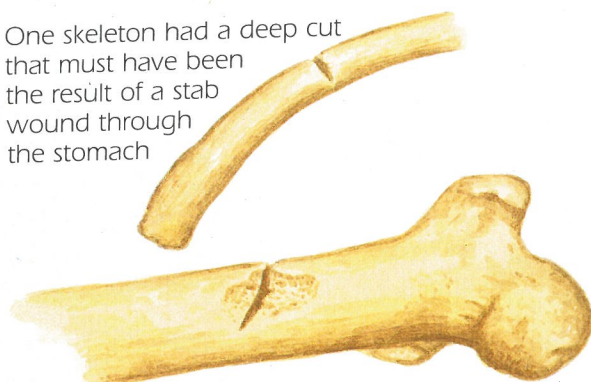
- 1 Start with the clue you think will be most useful. Does it support your hypothesis or does it suggest another answer?

- 2 Now look carefully at the rest of the clues in turn.

### Clue D

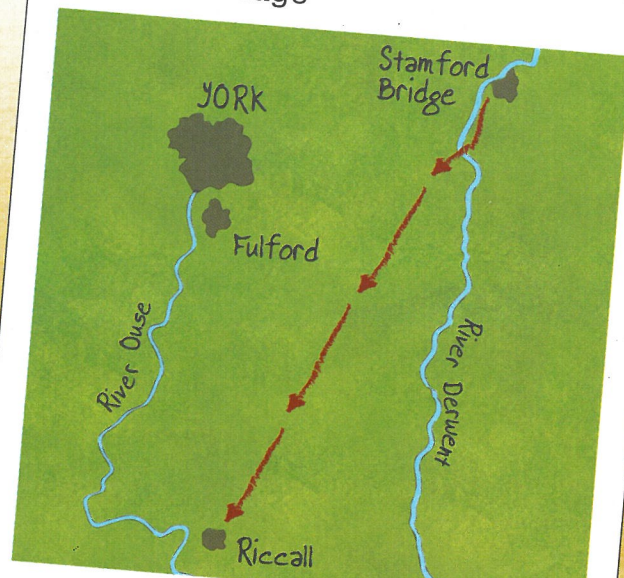
Scientists examined the bones of the skeletons very carefully. On many of the bones they found cut marks like this that looked as if they had been made by swords or axes

One skeleton had a deep cut that must have been the result of a stab wound through the stomach



### Clue E

The probable route of the Norwegian soldiers as they tried to get back to their ships after the Battle of Stamford Bridge



### Clue F

Saxon and Viking weapons. These were the kinds of weapons used at the Battles of Fulford and Stamford Bridge.

How the weapons were used



### Clue G

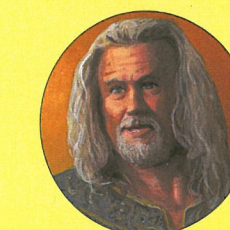
An extract from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 1066. This was a record of the main events of each year written by English monks. This account of the Battle of Stamford Bridge had been written by the 1080s.

- King Harald of Norway sailed up the River Ouse towards York with 300 ships. King Harold of England was in the south but went northwards day and night as quickly as he could.
- Before Harold could get there, Earl Edwin and Earl Morcar fought the invading Norwegians but many of their army fled or were killed. The Norwegians won the battle.
- Then King Harold of England and a large force of English soldiers took the Norwegians by surprise at Stamford Bridge. They fought strenuously until late in the day. One of the Norwegians stood on the narrow bridge and held off the English army so that they could not cross the bridge or win victory. An Englishman shot an arrow but missed. Then another Englishman crept under the bridge and stabbed the Norwegian from beneath.
- Then Harold and his army went over the bridge and killed King Harald Hardrada and large numbers of Norwegians. The surviving Norwegians fled. The English pursued them and attacked them fiercely until they reached their ships. Some were drowned and some burned and some killed in various ways so that few survived. The King let the survivors go home in 24 ships.

### Who's Who



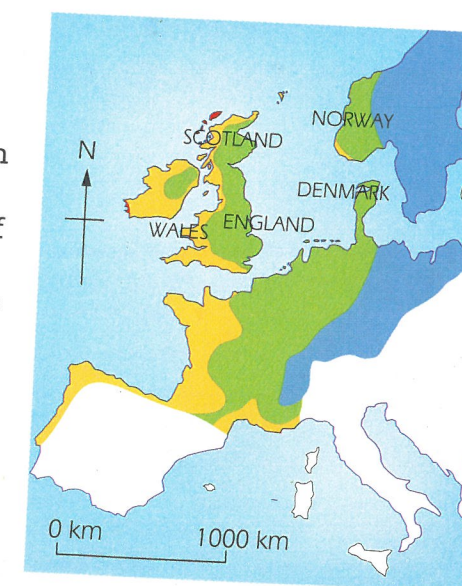
King of England – Harold. He had been king for just 9 months.



King of Norway – Harald Hardrada. He wanted to conquer England and become king himself.

### Clue H

Scientists examined the teeth from six of the skeletons. Scientists can tell which region people grew up in from their teeth. This is because traces of the water that children drink stay in their teeth for ever. The tests on the teeth of the skeletons showed that the people grew up in the blue areas on the map.



### Think

- 1 Which clue did you expect to be most useful to check your hypothesis?
- 2 Why did you pick that one?
- 3 Did it turn out to be the most useful one in the end?



# Was King Richard III an evil murderer?

An INTERPRETATION of history is simply someone's version of history. Look at the story of King Richard III on these two pages. It contains facts but these facts have been presented in a certain way. The writer has interpreted the facts to present Richard as ... as what? That is for you to work out.

In this Interpretation Zone you will **test** this interpretation of Richard and then try to **explain** how this interpretation arose.

- 1 Work in pairs. Read the story strip about Richard III. What impression does the story give you of Richard? Choose from these words:

caring	failure	ruthless	clever
cruel	heroic	brave	scheming

- 2 Who do you think might have created this interpretation of Richard III? (There's a clue in the story.)

## Fact and opinion

This interpretation of Richard's story includes facts but it also includes opinions. Can you tell the difference?

- 3 Which of the following are facts? Which are opinions?

- a) Richard III was crowned King of England in 1483.
- b) Richard III was an evil man who murdered his nephews.
- c) Richard III was a successful king.
- d) Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

## Think

- ? How can you tell that this writer does not like Richard? What words or phrases give it away?

## RICHARD III — THE KING WHO MURDERED HIS NEPHEWS



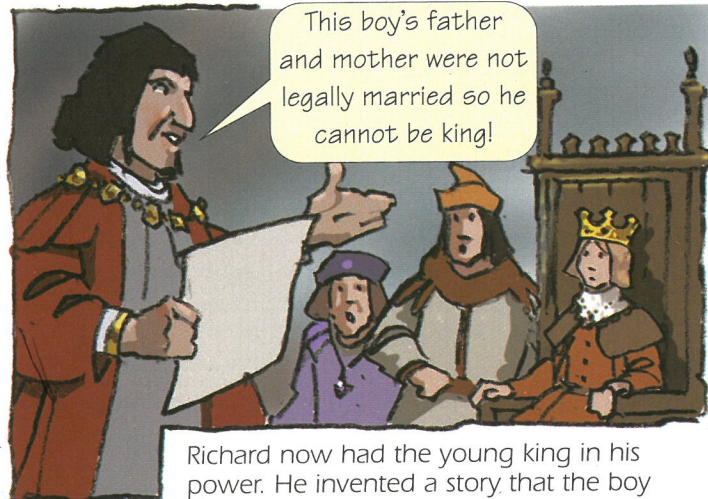
Richard III murdered his nephew, King Edward V, so that he could steal the crown for himself. Young Edward was only 13 years old.



Richard had always been selfish and ruthless. While his brother was king, Richard used all kinds of tricks and plots to build up his own riches and power. He even used the royal army to take over land for himself in Scotland.



In 1483 King Edward IV suddenly died. His young son became Edward V. Richard tricked the young king and his advisers by pretending to be friendly. But soon Richard threw the advisers into prison. Then he had them executed without trial.



Richard now had the young king in his power. He invented a story that the boy was illegitimate and so could not be king.



Richard savagely executed anyone who opposed him and had himself crowned King Richard III.



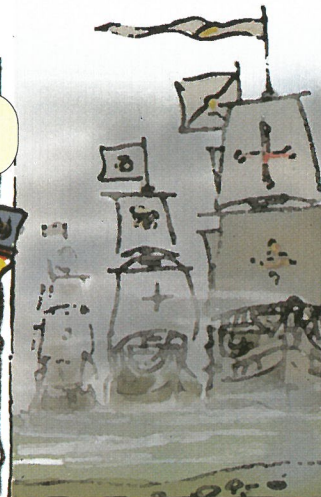
Next came the worst part of the story. Richard had young Edward and his brother cruelly murdered in the Tower of London. They are still known as the 'Princes in the Tower'.



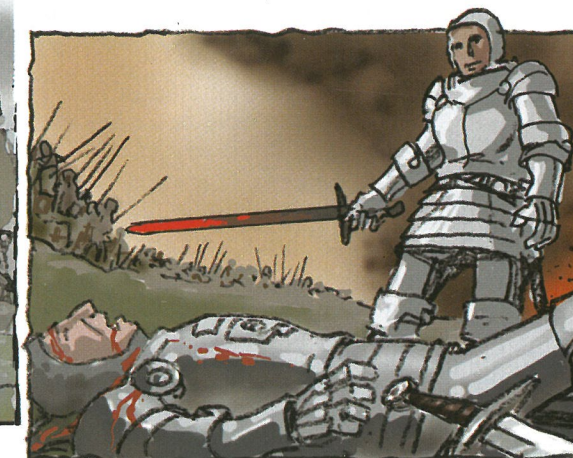
This brutal slaughter of innocent children shocked people all over Europe. Many men bravely risked their lives to fight against Richard.



Richard crushed the rebellion. The survivors escaped Richard's revenge and fled to France to join Henry Tudor, a brave and noble man – so different from Richard.



Henry Tudor invaded England in August 1485. At last England might get rid of the tyrant Richard.



Richard was killed at the Battle of Bosworth. Henry became King Henry VII, the first of the great Tudor monarchs.



Did Richard kill the Princes in the Tower? Be a detective!

An interpretation first needs to be tested. This means checking it against the facts and against other evidence. It would take a long time to test the whole of the story strip so we'll focus on just one issue: Did Richard III really murder his nephews?

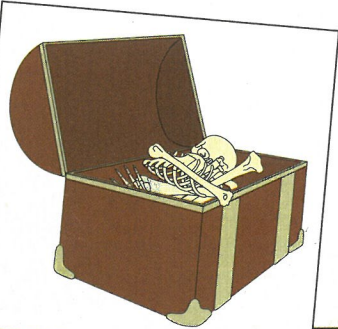
1 Here is your detective sheet. Use the clues on these two pages to fill out as much as you can.

Detective report	
Question	Your answer (✓, X, or ?) and which source shows this. Add comments if you need to.
Was there definitely a murder? For example, were the princes' <b>bodies</b> ever found?	
Did Richard have an <b>opportunity</b> to have the princes killed?	
Is there any <b>incriminating evidence</b> – such as a murder weapon – <b>proving</b> that Richard was the murderer?	
Is there any <b>evidence</b> that suggests that Richard could be the murderer?	
Is there any <b>evidence</b> that suggests that Richard might be innocent?	

If you have more ticks than crosses you probably think that Richard was guilty. If you have more crosses than ticks you ought to give him the benefit of the doubt and find him not guilty.

Clue A

In 1674 the bones of two children were found in the Tower of London. They were in a wooden chest about 3 metres underground. People thought they were the bones of the princes. In 1933 scientists examined the bones but they could not prove whether the children were related or exactly how old they were. The bones do not give any clues about how the children died. They have not been examined since.

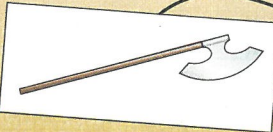
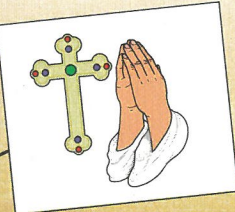


Clue B

There are no records of the princes being alive after the summer of 1483.

Clue C

Evidence from Dominic Mancini, an Italian priest. He was in London in 1483. He probably knew Edward V's doctor. Mancini left England in July 1483 and told his story many times to a bishop in France, who asked him to write the story down in the autumn of 1483.



Edward V's servants were prevented from seeing him. He and his brother were taken into the inner rooms of the Tower. Day by day they were seen less often behind the bars and windows until they were not seen at all. The King's doctor was the last servant to see him. He reported that the young king, like a victim ready to be sacrificed, believed that death was facing him. I have seen many men burst into tears when the young king was mentioned. Already people suspected that he had been murdered. How he has been murdered and whether he has been murdered at all I have not discovered.

Clue D

Richard's motto was 'Loyalty binds me'. He was very loyal to his brother, Edward IV, during a civil war in 1470. Richard was also a very religious man.

Clue G

In the summer of 1483 Richard did order the executions of several men who tried to stop him becoming king. No trials were held before they were executed.

Clue E

In 1483 various men who had known and trusted Richard for years unexpectedly rebelled against him. Instead they decided to support Henry Tudor, a man they did not know at all.

Clue H

Many northerners stayed loyal to Richard when others rebelled. When the leaders of the City of York heard that Richard had been killed they wrote in their records:

King Richard, who lawfully reigned over us, was defeated because of great treason by many men who turned against him. He was piteously murdered to the great heaviness [sadness] of this city.

Clue F

A year after the princes disappeared, their mother returned to Richard's court and allowed her daughter to dance with Richard.

- 2 Have you any more ideas about who might have produced the interpretation of Richard on pages 18 and 19?
- 3 Who do you think might have a more sympathetic interpretation of Richard?

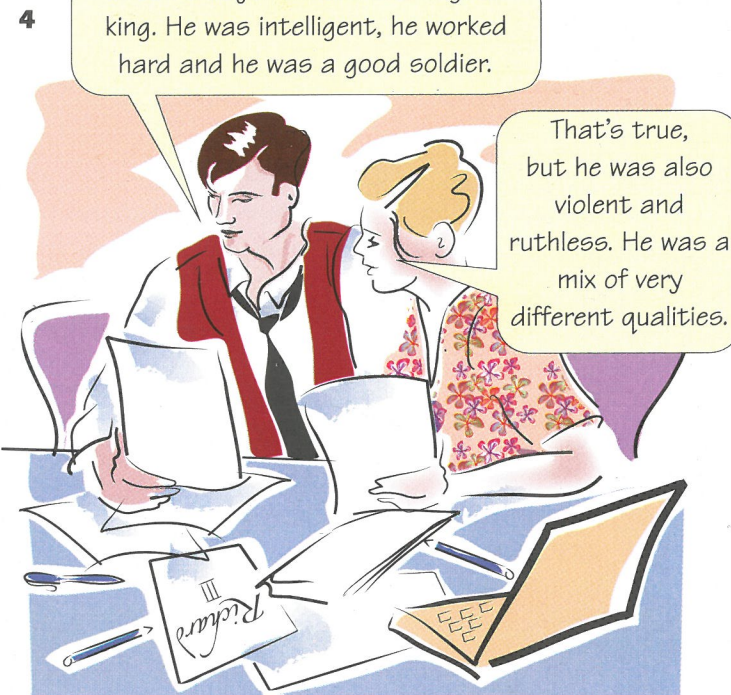
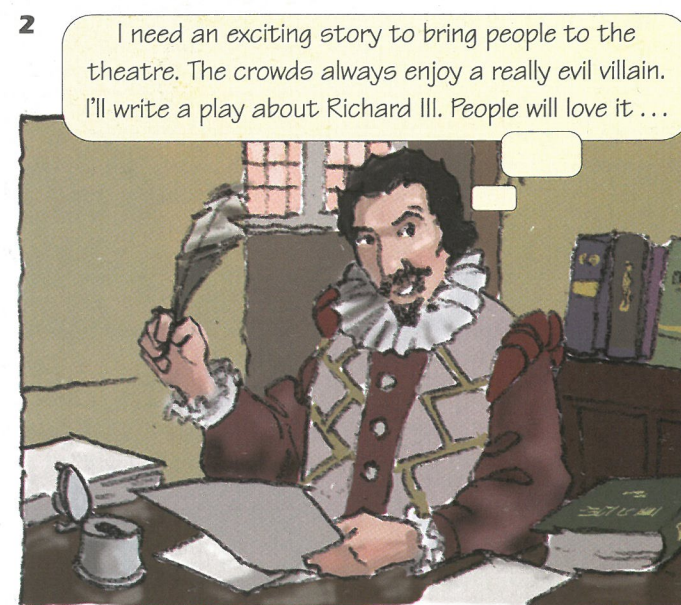
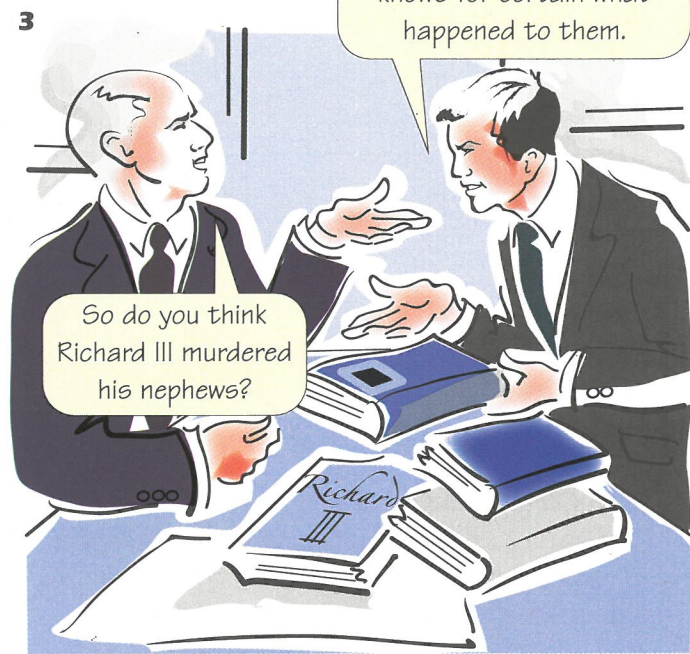


## ■ Was King Richard III an evil murderer?

## ■ Why are there different interpretations of Richard?

There are books, plays, films, websites and even a museum dedicated to Richard III. In some of them he is an evil murderer. In others he is a good, loyal man who was also a successful king.

- 1 These cartoons explain why interpretations of Richard vary. What explanations can you work out from these scenes?



▲ ... and they did. Shakespeare's *Richard III* is still playing to packed theatres over 400 years later.



## The Big Ideas

### History is...

**full of interpretations.** An interpretation is a version of history.

- The first thing you do with an interpretation is **test** it against the evidence.
- Then you **explain** it. That means understanding why someone made it and how that affects what they write or say.

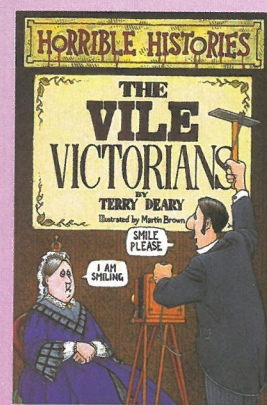
You have been practising both skills in this zone.

### ... but watch out! Some interpretations are easier to spot than others!

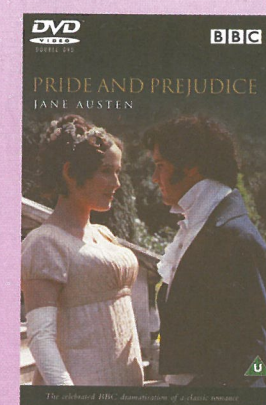
The story of Richard III is an extreme example of someone, in this case Henry Tudor, wanting to interpret history a particular way for his or her own purposes. However, there are less obvious examples. In fact any writing about history – even a film or a museum display – is an interpretation, because someone somewhere has had to **select** what facts to include and decide **how to present** them.

### Think

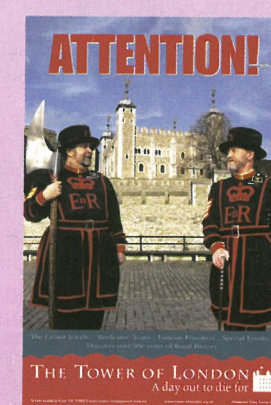
? Do you think a piece of History homework is an interpretation of history? Why?



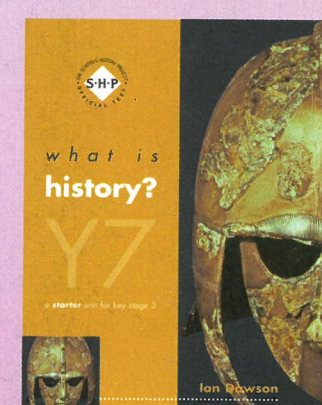
A



B



C



D

- 1 These pictures present some interpretations of history. You need to match each of them to one (or more) of these aims:

- to entertain
- to bring in visitors
- to sell more copies
- to provide accurate information
- to make history as interesting as possible
- to make you laugh.

- 2 Do you think the maker's aim might affect their interpretation? If so, how?

### WHAT NEXT?

Which zone are you going to investigate next? Turn to pages 2–3 to see the choices.