Teacher Support Notes

Recap

- What are sources? Any written or non-written materials that can be used to investigate the past. A source becomes ‘evidence’ when it is used to support or refute a viewpoint or contributes to an historical inquiry. – Evidence: The information contained within a source that tends to support an historical argument or provides information for a specific historical inquiry.

- What are primary sources? Something that has been created or written during the time period being investigated e.g. diaries, letters, photographs, pottery, coins. Secondary sources: Accounts about the past that were created after the time being investigated, e.g. textbooks, histories written after the events being described

- How do we know what happened in the ancient past? Historians and archaeologists investigate history of ancient past through excavation and archival research

- Aboriginal people didn’t leave written records – how do we know about Australia’s ancient past? There are two types of sources that can be used to investigate Australia’s ancient past: oral accounts and archaeological evidence.
  o Oral tradition: Spoken historical record. Does not operate on a timeline from oldest to most recent.
  o Archaeology: Sources of evidence include burial sites, middens, rock carvings, rock art and paintings, tools and fossils