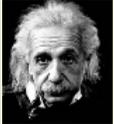


Have you ever wondered?

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INTRODUCTION

Grandpa's History Lessons that Matter



“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day.” – Albert Einstein



It's not glamorous, but everybody needs to do it. From Romans gossiping on the loo to medieval royal bottom-wiping, to the invention of our modern flushing toilet, here are 2,000 years of toilet history!

Adapted from an article in:

BloombergOpinion



By Matt Levine

August 6, 2019

How do you become chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs?

Well here is [how you don't](#), from a [2017 anecdote](#) about former second-in-command Gary Cohn as Goldman's board considered him as a candidate to lead the firm:

The board consensus was that Cohn wasn't well rounded enough to lead the firm. “We'd talk about how we'd ‘crossed the Rubicon’ and he wouldn't know what we were talking about,” says a former Goldman board member. “But he was unusually bright, knew markets, had huge character, and was straightforward . . .”

Do you know what ‘crossing the Rubicon’ refers to? If not, perhaps you are not a suitable candidate for the position – as CEO of Goldman, or any other position that you may aspire to. Who knows what the interviewer opposite you expects? A broad knowledge base opens many doors, and it can be fun getting there! So here's the point:

Stay in school, kids! Because there's always a chance that you will be up for the biggest job at the place you have only dreamed of working at, and you will miss the significance of a casual reference to some notable historical person, place or event before being politely dismissed. How can you hope to be your best and to secure the best opportunities available to you without a broad education in the social sciences and the humanities?¹

WHY DOES YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY MATTER?

- 1. In a very practical sense, it broadens your opportunity set.**

See the story below, specific to the world of finance but applicable to the pursuit of all of your dreams.

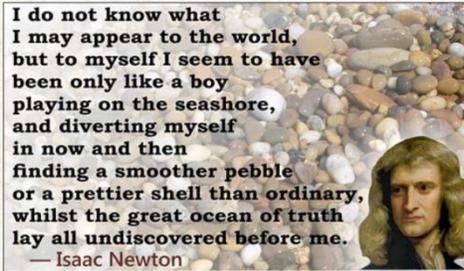
- 2. It helps you to formulate your personal world vision.**

Confidence in your world vision inspires confidence in yourself.

- 3. The stories about the people, places and events of history are fascinating and fun!**

Lessons in leadership from history's most famous people.

¹ The social sciences focus on subjects like economics, psychology, and history, while the humanities explore philosophy, languages and literature, and the arts. Students following this pathway develop strong communication and critical thinking skills, as well as an understanding of cultural differences.



What can you expect from this course?



Have you ever wondered?

By Grandpa Ralph

The spring of 2020, amid legislated COVID 19 lockdowns in many parts of the world, seemed like a good time to take account, and satisfy my dormant curiosities about how, after all, it all came to this – the world, that is, or at least the western world – with me as a part of it. Logically, a clear understanding of the ebb and flow of global power structures would lend some insight to the essential questions, and it seemed logical too, that a study of empires and ages through time, would be helpful. So, I set upon some research and, with the internet as my friend, it was not long before I discovered several history websites, many with excellent timelines to help me order events in my mind.

Before I knew it, I was hooked, obsessed with knowing more about the people and events of the empires and ages that, in my judgment, have most significantly influenced our (i.e., the western world's) way of life, our “frame of reference”, our collective worldviews.

Beyond my personal curiosities, it struck me that if I was to document my findings, I would have a reference source that I could rely upon to refresh my old and failing memory as needed. And then there was the idea that if I was to document everything in an attractive format, the result might serve as a series of lessons, possibly of interest to my grandchildren. And as the project unfolded it became apparent that interest in the lessons was not an age-dependent thing.

And here is the result – Grandpa's History Lessons that Matter – for the learning pleasure of “kids from one to ninety-two.”



Wonder away! For “wonder is the beginning of wisdom.”

— Socrates



Mostly, I hope you will have some fun with this course. As it was for me, my hope is that for you, this course will serve to answer a few questions that have been running around in your head for too long. And hopefully, each lesson will inspire you to find and read books to learn more about the people and the events that interest you most.

Across 15 lessons in all, stretching from Mesopotamia to America, I have structured each lesson in three parts to include:

1. a brief introduction followed by
2. a timeline for the empire or age under study. Within the timeline, selected titles are highlighted and act as a link on which you may click to satisfy your greater curiosity by bringing you to a page in
3. the appendix that provides more information and pictures related to the highlighted subject.

For the most part, the material within the lessons is not footnoted and there is no bibliography. With thanks however, I must acknowledge the primary sources for the material in these lessons. They include, amongst others that I cannot recall:

https://www.ducksters.com/	https://www.oxfordreference.com/
https://www.softschools.com/	https://www.history.com/
https://www.timelineindex.com/	https://www.historic-uk.com/
https://www.sutori.com/	https://www.britannica.com/
https://courses.lumenlearning.com	https://append.io/
https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/	https://www.historytoday.com/

Let's learn from history; then, let's make some of our own!