History 1120

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September 18/2018

Reading Log

#1

 While reading the pages assigned from, “The Buffalo Jump” by Jack Brink, I was a slightly confused by the meaning behind the text, or rather, what the theme of the text was. However, once I started to read on I realized that the theme is focusing on the past and how we have grown as a whole. This story also focuses on the different types of artifacts he finds and what he can make of them from using his knowledge from the previous years.

 This article was written so it would show the audience how different it used to be and how people’s lives were on the line every day. As the author states on page 11, “No doubt tragedy struck often: people died in battle, in accidents while hunting, of starvation and thirst, torn apart by grizzly bears, lost and frozen in relentless winter snow storms, from illness, and occasionally, if they were lucky, from old age.” He is trying to show the reader that thousands of years ago the people struggled day to day because they didn’t have the resources that we have today. He is very passionate about the way he writes about how we need to respect where we all came from and how everything in the past has changed us as a whole (Page 7 and 8). This article helps us to understand what the Canadians past was like because it clearly describes how life was and what challenges they went through, with not just the weather conditions but also with the animals surrounding them and the different types of food they had to kill or find. Alongside of food and animals, Jack Brink also writes about how climate and physical features within the environment effected the people in their everyday lives.

 I believe that the author was right in everything he stated because of how much everything related back to the present day and how everything is so much different, obviously compared to thousands of years ago but also to just a few years ago. In the way he writes he has so much respect for everything these people went through.

 I believe he touches on historiography because he is an architect, and he reaches into the actual history of the animals, how they died, how they existed and everything that happened within their life time. He brings in the actual facts of the past and how they interpret what happened, and how it brought us to where we are today. It was interesting to read about how they could understand what happened to this specific buffalo just by the bones and the way they were buried within the ground.

Overall the book we’ve read for the assignment ties in well with what we’re learning because it’s all about Canadian history, there’s no flipping back and forth. Also, I feel like this was a great way to start off the course because it really shows the audience how hard it was thousands of years ago to even find food. It helped open my eyes to the hardships people had to go through in the past in order to just survive, which is unbelievable because today everything comes so easily to us.