

## 7. Anachronism.



Anachronism occurs when something is put in the wrong time and place. Imagine a **carving** on an ancient **tomb** that showed someone using a telephone, or a photo from World War 2 showing someone using the internet. The mobile phone and the internet would be anachronisms because they hadn't been **invented** at the time the image was made.

When historians are looking at sources and they spot something that shouldn't be there they question its **reliability**. If something contains anachronisms then it can't be trusted.

Usually anachronisms happen by mistake, or when someone creating a secondary

source is **ignorant** of the time they are studying.

Often we can see anachronisms in films about history.

One famous example is in the film Titanic when Jack (Leo Di Caprio) says he went ice fishing on Lake Wissota. The anachronism is that Lake Wissota is a real lake that was man made five years after the Titanic sank.

The legendary Scottish Film Braveheart shows its characters wearing **kilts**. Kilts weren't worn until 400 years after the events of the film took place!

Other films that you can watch and discover anachronisms in include:

- Apollo 13
- The Untouchables
- The Green Mile
- Forrest Gump

See if you can find others!

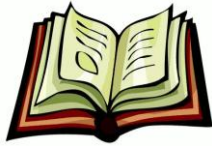




# Activities

## Comprehension Questions

Before you start, define the terms in **bold**.



1. When do anachronisms occur?
2. Name 4 examples of anachronisms from the text.
3. What anachronisms can you see in the 2 pictures?
4. Why is spotting anachronisms important to historians?
5. Why do anachronisms occur?

## Thinking Questions

1. Write a paragraph explaining why historians need to be careful about anachronisms. Use the PEEL method to write the paragraph.

