Name: _____

You may write on this paper or type out your responses.

Cracking History's Cold Cases: A Research Project

The Task: Create a Case File History is filled with unsolved mysteries. Your task in this research project is to choose one of those mysteries and present a plausible theory to explain it. You will research a variety of primary and secondary sources to uncover possible theories and the clues that support them. After you conclude your research, you will create a "Case File" that includes: background on the mystery, the most plausible theory, and a collection of annotated evidence that backs up that theory.

Choose your Cold Case: _____

2. Turn your Cold Case into a question: What do you want to know?

_____
_____
_____

3. Using primary and secondary sources on the internet, write down at least two competing theories of your cold case below. (You may choose to return to this step and add more theories if you turn up something compelling later in your research).

Theory 1

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_____
_____
_____

Theory 2

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_____
_____
_____
_____

Theory 3

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_____

Theory 4

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_____

4. Fill out the graphic organizer to take notes. Your research should include a mix of primary and secondary sources. Remember, these historical events are mysteries for a reason: the sources will present you with contradictions. Take note of discrepancies and base your conclusions on what you consider to be the most credible sources.

What is your source?	Primary or Secondary?	What is the theory the source presents?	Does this source have a bias?	What evidence did you take away?

5. Review the evidence you have collected and answer the following questions:

a. What theory is most plausible?

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_____

b. What evidence can you present to support this theory? (Be sure your evidence includes primary sources as well as secondary ones.)

_____
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c. Explain one alternate theory and provide reasons—based in evidence!—as to why you discarded that theory.

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d. What did you learn about this historical period from your investigation? Why is an investigation such as this an important undertaking?

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