Analyzing Visual of Samson and the Lion

LEARN THE SKILL

Visuals are images such as photographs or pieces of fine art. They may accurately portray a historical figure or event, or they may show a biased point of view. Historians use the following strategies to interpret visuals.

1. Who or what is the subject of the visual?

2. Examine the details to determine the historical context of the image.

3. How is the subject depicted?

4. Does the image agree or disagree with known historical facts?

PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL

*Samson Rending the Lion* was made by Albrecht Dürer in 1496. It depicts the Biblical story of Samson, the strongest man in Israel, who was attacked by a lion. Samson grabbed the lion with his bare hands and tore it apart.

1. What details determine the historical context of this image?

2. How is Samson portrayed in this image?