Name: _____ Date: _____

Continuity and Change Tool

Historians understand the past as a mix and series of complex events where we can identify patterns of continuity, where aspects of historical events have remained the same, and where things have changed. Historians attempt to explain the historical significance of specific historical developments in relation to a larger pattern of continuity and/or change. This disciplinary practice allows historians to connect individual events to a broader historical period's narrative.

STEP 1: Fill in the contextual information and the question that is going to focus your analysis.

What is the development or issue that occurred? **Where did it occur?**	
Causes	
Period	Beginning: End:
Historical or Focus Question	

STEP 2: Draft a simple timeline of the **six most important** events that illustrate your narrative. Your answer to the prompt must contain one example of continuity and two examples of change. Place internal actions/events chronologically on the top of the timeline and external actions/events on the bottom.

Beginning Date	Internal actions/events happening within the development or issue	**Ending Date**
	External actions/events happening outside of the development or issue	

STEP 3: Group specific events/actions from your timeline into broader categories in order to categorize internal events as *characteristics* and external events as conditions. E.g., the event "beheading of Louis XVI" can be generalized as a "revolutionary action" under *characteristics*, and the event "Supporters of the monarchy flee to Austria" can be generalized under *conditions*. There may be some overlap or intersection of categories.

Characteristics (internal to the development or issue)	Conditions (external to the development or issue)

Continuity and Change Tool

STEP 4: Select the three characteristics or conditions from Step Three that you have the strongest evidence for (from documents or outside information). Use primary and secondary sources, as well as your knowledge of the unit content to record information that helps you to identify what has changed and what has remained the same. Be sure to cite sources where appropriate.

Characteristics or Conditions	Beginning of the Period	End of the Period	Continuities and/or Changes
			Continuities: Changes:
			Continuities: Changes:
			Continuities: Changes:

STEP 5: Write a brief summary of the important continuities and changes for this historical development or issue.

Continuities What stays the same? Why does it endure or continue?	Changes What is/are the significant change(s)? What prompts the change(s)?
Who benefits from the change(s)? How? Who is challenged by the change(s)? How?	
Who benefits from the continuities? How? Who is marginalized as things remain the same? How?	