

Additional History HITS strategy - On balance...

This strategy is designed to help pupils sort the evidence that supports two opposing arguments. To do this they metaphorically weigh the arguments to see which of two opposing viewpoints is the best supported by evidence. Hence it is likely to be used at **Step 4 or 5** of an enquiry.



How it works

- Provide graphics of a pair of balance scales ([resource also provided](#)) – perhaps have a set of these pre-printed and laminated as part of your school's history toolkit (see History HITS2).
- Pupils are given small cards which feature statements relating to the topic (or they write their own on post-its), some of which contain positive information, others with negative or neutral information.
- They then divide them between the sides of the balance scales (or centrally if there are neutral statements).
- Once the cards have been placed it is simply a matter of totting up the evidence on each side of the scales to see whether that aspect of the study was broadly positive, broadly negative or evenly balanced.

Why it works

- The summaries of the arguments provide reinforcement for those pupils who may need it.
- The summaries are a helpful reminder of some aspects which may not have been covered since early in the enquiry, which some pupils may have now forgotten.

Example

In the History Curriculum Centre's KS2 enquiry *Anglo-Saxons: the ruin of Britain?*, this strategy is suggested to examine whether the Anglo-Saxon impact on Britain was negative, as the question driving the enquiry queries, or whether there were positive aspects too. The [summaries used](#) are also included in this Moodle+Taster section.