

History Curriculum

Whole-school definition of history

History is the study of the past, in particular the changes over time that have occurred within human society.

KEY CONCEPTS

Change and Continuity

- Exploring how societies, cultures, technology, and ideas change over time while some things stay the same.
- Children revisit this thread through different periods and topics, comparing what has evolved and what has endured.

Cause and Consequence

- Investigating why events happened and what effects they had locally, nationally, and globally.
- This thread helps children develop critical thinking about historical events and their ripple effects across time.

Diversity and Perspective

- Understanding that history is experienced differently by different people based on culture, class, gender, and viewpoint.
- Children learn to appreciate multiple perspectives and voices, including those often marginalized or less heard.

OVERVIEW

Year A - 25/26 Year B - 26/27 Year C - 27-28

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
R/1 1/2	Houses and Homes (Then & Now) EYFS: My house / where I live KS1: Changes in homes over time, local buildings	Significant Individuals: <i>Explorers</i> EYFS: People who help us / adventurers KS1: Neil Armstrong, Christopher Columbus — their achievements and why they are remembered	Seaside Holidays (Then & Now) EYFS: Our seaside visits KS1: How seaside holidays have changed; local links if possible
	Significant Event: <i>The Great Fire of London (or alternative event)</i> EYFS: Festivals and celebrations (Bonfire Night link) KS1: Why we remember this event	Significant Individuals: <i>Nurses (Florence Nightingale / Mary Seacole)</i> EYFS: People who help us KS1: Why these women are remembered	Monarchy over time (Kings & Queens) EYFS: Stories about kings and queens KS1: What makes a good king or queen? Compare monarchs
	Transport (Then & Now) EYFS: Cars, trains, buses today KS1: How transport has changed; introduction to key inventors (Stephenson, Wright brothers)	Significant Event: <i>The First Flight / Moon Landing</i> EYFS: What flies? What is space? KS1: How these events changed the world	Local History Study (Castles / local famous person / landmark) EYFS: What is special in our place? KS1: Story of our area through a building, person, or event
3	Settlers and Homes - Stone Age to Iron Age <i>How did early people find and make homes?</i>	Shang Dynasty of Ancient China What made the Shang Dynasty powerful?	Local History Study <i>What is the story of our local area? BRUNEL? (Kennet and Avon Canal, Stonehenge/Avebury, Roundway Down)</i>
4	Britain Before the Romans - (Stone–Bronze–Iron overview & Iron Age hill forts: tribal kingdoms, farming, art and culture)	Power & Invasion Romans + Anglo-Saxons + Vikings <i>Who were the invaders and what did they leave behind?</i>	Power in the Ancient World Ancient Greece (with comparison to Ancient Egypt) <i>Who held power in the ancient world?</i>
5	Mayans	Tudors	Titanic
6	Victorians/Industrial Revolution	WWII	Civil Rights / Windrush

EYFS, Y1 & Y2

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
EYFS 1/2	Houses and Homes (Then & Now) EYFS: My house / where I live KS1: Changes in homes over time, local buildings	Significant Individuals: <i>Explorers</i> EYFS: People who help us / adventurers KS1: Neil Armstrong, Christopher Columbus — their achievements and why they are remembered	Seaside Holidays (Then & Now) EYFS: Our seaside visits KS1: How seaside holidays have changed; local links if possible
	Significant Event: <i>The Great Fire of London (or alternative event)</i> EYFS: Festivals and celebrations (Bonfire Night link) KS1: Why we remember this event	Significant Individuals: <i>Nurses (Florence Nightingale / Mary Seacole)</i> EYFS: People who help us KS1: Why these women are remembered	Monarchy over time (Kings & Queens) EYFS: Stories about kings and queens KS1: What makes a good king or queen? Compare monarchs
	Transport (Then & Now) EYFS: Cars, trains, buses today KS1: How transport has changed; introduction to key inventors (Stephenson, Wright brothers)	Significant Event: <i>The First Flight / Moon Landing</i> EYFS: What flies? What is space? KS1: How these events changed the world	Local History Study (Castles / local famous person / landmark) EYFS: What is special in our place? KS1: Story of our area through a building, person, or event

YEAR A					
Year	Topic	National Curriculum Coverage	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
EYFS	My House / Where I Live	Understanding the world: Past and present - Talk about past and present events in their own lives and family history	Explore features of their own homes and family routines now and before	Simple causes: Why families live in certain homes or areas	Recognise family differences and similarities
	People Who Help Us / Adventurers	Understanding the world: People and communities - Learn about people who help us and stories of explorers/adventurers	Explore familiar roles over time	Why people help others and why adventurers explore	Different roles in the community and people's diverse contributions
	Seaside Visits	Understanding the world: Past and present - Talk about changes in environment and experiences	Notice similarities and differences between seaside visits now and before	Why people visit the seaside and what changes holidays bring	Different experiences of holidays and seaside culture
KS1	Changes in Homes Over Time / Local Buildings	Changes within living memory; significant local history - Identify changes in homes and local area over time	Compare old and new homes and buildings	Causes of changes in homes and building styles	Recognise different homes for different people / communities
	Significant Individuals: Neil Armstrong, Christopher Columbus	Lives of significant individuals; events beyond living memory that shaped the world	Explore achievements over time	Why these explorers made their journeys and consequences	Different cultural perspectives on exploration
	Seaside Holidays (Then & Now)	Changes within living memory; significant local history - Explore how seaside holidays have changed	Compare seaside holidays past and present	Causes of changes in holidays and their effects	Different social experiences and classes in holidays

YEAR B					
Year	Topic	National Curriculum Coverage	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
EYFS	Festivals and Celebrations (Bonfire Night)	Understanding the world: Past and present - Talk about special times and events in their own lives	Explore how festivals and celebrations continue over time	Why we have festivals (cause) and their effects (consequences)	Recognise different cultural and family traditions
	People Who Help Us (Nurses)	Understanding the world: People and communities - Recognise roles of helpers	Identify helpers over time, including nurses	Why nurses help and the impact of their work	Different types of helpers and diversity in these roles
	Stories about Kings and Queens	Understanding the world: Past and present - Talk about significant people and stories	Recognise stories about monarchs passed down	Why stories about kings and queens are told	Different roles and characters in these stories
KS1	The Great Fire of London (or alternative event)	Significant historical events beyond living memory; local history	Compare London before, during, and after the fire	Causes of the fire and consequences for people and the city	Different experiences of the fire from various people's views
	Significant Individuals: Florence Nightingale / Mary Seacole	Lives of significant individuals who contributed to society	How nursing and healthcare changed due to these women	Why these nurses are remembered and their impact	Compare backgrounds and challenges faced by Nightingale & Seacole
	Monarchy Over Time (Kings & Queens)	Changes within living memory and beyond; understanding monarchy's role	Compare kings and queens from different times	What makes a good monarch and consequences of their rule	Consider different perspectives on monarchy from the people

YEAR C					
Year	Topic	National Curriculum Coverage	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
EYFS	Cars, Trains, Buses Today	Understanding the world: Past and present - Talk about everyday technology and transport	Explore familiar transport used today and what stays the same	Why people use different transport and what they do	Different types of transport and how people use them differently
	What Flies? What is Space?	Understanding the world: The natural world and people and communities	Notice things that fly and changes in our environment	Why people are interested in flying and space exploration	Different ways people imagine and explore space
	What is Special in Our Place?	Understanding the world: Past and present - Talk about local environment and landmarks	Recognise special places and buildings in the local area	Why places/buildings are important to communities	Different people's connections to places and landmarks
KS1	How Transport Has Changed; Key Inventors (Stephenson, Wright Brothers)	Changes within living memory; significant historical events	Compare transport from past to present	Why transport changed and impact of inventors	Different transport inventions and inventors' backgrounds
	The First Flight / Moon Landing	Significant historical events beyond living memory; science and technology history	Compare human achievements in flight and space	Causes and consequences of first flight and moon landing	Global impact and different perspectives on space events
	Story of Our Area Through Building, Person, or Event	Significant local history	How local area has changed over time	Causes of local changes and their effects on the community	Different stories and perspectives from local people

Year 3

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
YEAR 3	Settlers and Homes - Stone Age to Iron Age <i>How did early people find and make homes?</i>	Shang Dynasty of Ancient China What made the Shang Dynasty powerful?	Local History Study <i>What is the story of our local area?</i> BRUNEL? <i>(Kennet and Avon Canal, Stonehenge/Avebury, Roundway Down)</i>

Topic	National Curriculum Coverage	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
Settlers and Homes – Stone Age to Iron Age: How did early people find and make homes?	Changes in Britain from Stone Age to Iron Age; chronology and settlements	Track how homes and settlements evolved from Stone to Iron Age	Why early people changed homes and adapted to environments	Different groups' ways of living and survival strategies
Shang Dynasty of Ancient China: What made the Shang Dynasty powerful?	Non-European society study; achievements and power structures	Understand continuity and change in Shang society and governance	Causes of Shang power and its consequences on Chinese history	Explore cultural beliefs, social hierarchy, and leadership styles
Local History Study: The Story of Our Local Area (Brunel, Kennet and Avon Canal, Stonehenge, Avebury, Roundway Down)	Significant local history; notable individuals and landmarks	Changes in local area over time and lasting historical features	Causes and impacts of Brunel's work and local landmarks	Multiple perspectives on local history, including community views

Year 4

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
YEAR 4	Britain Before the Romans - (Stone–Bronze–Iron overview & Iron Age hill forts: tribal kingdoms, farming, art and culture)	Power in the Ancient World Ancient Greece (with comparison to Ancient Egypt) <i>Who held power in the ancient world?</i>	Power & Invasion Romans + Anglo-Saxons + Vikings <i>Who were the invaders and what did they leave behind?</i>

Topic	National Curriculum Coverage	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
Britain Before the Romans – Stone–Bronze–Iron Age overview & Iron Age hill forts: tribal kingdoms, farming, art and culture	Britain's settlement and culture from Stone to Iron Age	Track technological, social, and cultural changes and continuities across the ages	Why hill forts were built and their impact on communities and power structures	Different tribes' cultures, art, and ways of life
Power & Invasion – Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings	Roman Britain; Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions and settlements	Changes and continuities during invasions and settlements	Causes of invasions and consequences for Britain's culture and society	Perspectives of invaders and native Britons
Power in the Ancient World – Ancient Greece (with comparison to Ancient Egypt)	Study of Ancient Greece and comparison with Ancient Egypt	Continuity and change in governance, society, and culture in two ancient civilizations	Causes and effects of power structures and leadership	Social hierarchy, religion, and cultural perspectives in Greece and Egypt

Year 5

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
YEAR 5	Mayans	Tudors	Titanic

Topic	National Curriculum Coverage	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
Mayans	Non-European society – a study of Mayan civilisation c. AD 900	Compare changes in Mayan society over time; contrast with contemporary civilisations	Examine why the Mayan civilisation rose and declined; impacts of beliefs, farming, war	Explore Mayan worldviews, religion, achievements in maths and astronomy
Tudors	Study of an aspect or theme in British history beyond 1066	Understand how life changed during the Tudor period (rich/poor, religion, monarchy)	Causes of Tudor exploration, religious changes, and consequences of Henry VIII's reign	Perspectives of monarchs, common people, women, and religious groups
Titanic	Significant event/person/theme in British history	Explore continuity and change in travel, technology, and class divisions	Causes of the disaster and its global consequences	Explore different passengers' experiences (class, gender, age, nationality)

Year 6

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
YEAR 5	Victorians/Industrial Revolution	WWII	Civil Rights / Windrush

Topic	National Curriculum Coverage	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
Victorians / Industrial Revolution	Study of an aspect of British history that extends chronological knowledge beyond 1066	Explore changes in industry, transport, living and working conditions	Industrialisation causes and its social, economic and environmental consequences	Voices of workers, inventors, women, children; rural vs urban perspectives
World War II	Significant turning point in British and world history	Track changes in Britain and the world before, during and after the war	Causes of war, consequences for civilians and countries	Experiences of evacuees, soldiers, refugees; global and local viewpoints
Civil Rights / Windrush	A post-1945 study of social history including key movements and significant individuals	Change in laws, rights, and attitudes from 1940s to present	Causes of inequality and racism; consequences of activism and migration	Diverse voices: Windrush generation, British citizens, Civil Rights leaders in UK/US

Progression of Skills

Skill Area	EYFS (Past & Present)	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Chronological Understanding	- Talk about past and present events - Understand terms like “a long time ago” - Sequence daily routines	- Order events and objects - Use time terms (past, present, before, after) - Recognise past periods as distant	- Place events on a timeline - Understand BC/AD or BCE/CE - Identify connections between periods	- Secure understanding of timelines - Sequence multiple periods and concurrent events - Use period-appropriate terms (e.g. monarchy, parliament)
Change and Continuity	- Spot simple differences (e.g. past vs now toys, homes) - Notice changes in their own life	- Identify simple similarities/differences between time periods - Describe changes in transport, homes, holidays	- Describe changes within and across periods (e.g. Iron Age to Romans) - Identify features that stayed the same	- Explain continuity and change with supporting evidence - Compare patterns across time (e.g. rights, technology, leadership)
Cause & Consequence	- Talk about “why” something happened (e.g. “The fire burned because...”)	- Understand simple causes and effects (e.g. fire spread due to wooden houses) - Explore consequences of actions	- Link causes to consequences (e.g. Roman invasion → roads) - Begin to explain reasons for actions/events	- Evaluate causes and long-term consequences - Discuss complex causes with multiple factors (e.g. war, revolution)

Skill Area	EYFS (Past & Present)	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Similarity and Difference	- Compare their life to others (e.g. old vs new) - Recognise cultural differences in festivals/stories	- Compare ways of life across time (e.g. rich/poor, then/now) - Identify key differences between people and periods	- Explore differences between ancient societies (e.g. Egypt vs Greece) - Understand roles of different groups in society	- Analyse experiences of different groups (e.g. race, gender, class) - Recognise conflicting viewpoints and lived experiences
Using Sources and Evidence	- Explore photos, objects, stories - Ask “What is it?” or “Is it old?”	- Use simple artefacts, images, texts to ask and answer questions - Begin to understand that sources show the past	- Use a range of sources to ask questions and build understanding - Understand sources may be partial or incomplete	- Critically evaluate sources - Identify bias, motive, reliability - Use evidence to construct arguments
Interpretation and Perspective	- Understand others may tell stories differently	- Know that stories about the past can differ - Compare ideas in simple accounts	- Understand that people and sources can have different views - Begin to identify purpose or bias	- Evaluate contrasting interpretations - Understand why different narratives exist (e.g. empire, colonisation, protest)

Skill Area	EYFS (Past & Present)	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Historical Enquiry	- Ask “why” and “how” questions - Explore the past through play and stories	- Ask simple questions about the past - Select information from pictures, texts or artefacts	- Ask valid historical questions - Use sources to build explanations	- Form independent enquiries - Use multiple sources to support conclusions and debate significance
Communication	- Talk about what happened - Role-play or draw stories from the past	- Retell events with basic historical vocabulary - Sequence events verbally or pictorially	- Use subject vocabulary (e.g. invader, empire, peasant) - Present findings using timelines, writing or oral presentation	- Construct written arguments and narratives - Use vocabulary and structure suited to audience and purpose

Whole School Curriculum Coverage

Year	Topic(s)	Chronology	Changes within living memory	Events beyond living memory	Significant individuals	Local history	Ancient civs / non-European	Theme post-1066	Change & Continuity	Cause & Consequence	Diversity & Perspective
EYFS	Homes, Transport, Seaside, Kings & Queens, Festivals, Space, Nurses	✓	✓	● (intro)	✓	✓	●	●	✓	✓	✓
Y1–2	Homes Then & Now, Explorers, Seaside, Great Fire of London, Nurses, Transport, First Flight, Kings & Queens, Local Castle/Person	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	●	✓	✓	✓
Y3	Stone–Iron Age, Shang Dynasty, Local Study (Brunel etc.)	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Shang)	●	✓	✓	✓
Y4	Britain Before the Romans, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Ancient Greece vs Egypt	✓	●	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓	✓	✓
Y5	Mayans, Tudors, Titanic	✓	●	✓	✓	●	✓ (Mayans)	✓ (Tudors/Titanic)	✓	✓	✓
Y6	Victorians/Industrial Revolution, WWII, Civil Rights/Windrush	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓