

Progression in History

Purpose of study

A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

Aims

The national curriculum for history aims to ensure that all pupils:

Know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world

Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind

Gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'

Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses

Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed

Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

		Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Comparison	Compare and contrast	Describe some similarities and differences between things in the past and the present.	Identify similarities and differences between ways of life within or beyond living memory.	Describe what it was like to live in a different period.	Explain the similarities and differences between two periods of history.	Compare and contrast two civilisations.	Compare and contrast an aspect of history across two or more periods studied.	Compare and contrast leadership, belief, lifestyle or significant events across a range of time periods.
Humankind	Everyday life	Talk about past and present events in their own lives and those who are important to them.	Describe an aspect of everyday life within or beyond living memory.	Describe the everyday lives of people in a period within or beyond living memory.	Describe the everyday lives of people from past historical periods. Describe everyday life in ancient Rome, including aspects, such as jobs, houses, buildings, food and schooling. Describe the 'Romanisation' of Britain, including the impact of technology, culture and beliefs.	Explain how artefacts provide evidence of everyday life in the past.	Explain how everyday life in an ancient civilisation changed or continued during different periods.	Evaluate the human impact of war, oppression, conflict and rebellion on the everyday life of a past or ancient society.
	Hierarchy and power	Explore and talk about pictures, stories and information books on the theme of royalty.	Describe the role of a monarch.	Describe the hierarchy of a past society.	Describe the roles of tribal communities and explain how this influenced everyday life. Describe the hierarchy and different roles in past civilisations. Describe the significance and impact of power struggles on Britain.	Describe the hierarchy and different roles in ancient civilisations.	Describe the significance, impact and legacy of power in ancient civilisations.	Describe and explain the significance of a leader or monarch. Describe how the resistance, refusal or rebellion of individuals, groups and civilisations can affect a society or practice.
	Civilisations				Describe how past civilisations or lives of people in Britain developed during the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Describe ways in which human invention and ingenuity have changed how people live. Describe the achievements and influence of the ancient Romans on the wider world.	Construct a narrative, chronological or non-chronological account of a past civilisation, focusing on their features and achievements. Create an in-depth study of the characteristics and importance of a past or ancient civilisation or society (people, architecture, religion, culture, art, politics, hierarchy). Describe the significance and impact of power struggles on Britain.	Describe the achievements and influence of the ancient Greeks on the wider world. Study a feature of a past civilisation or society. Create an in-depth study of the characteristics and importance of a past or ancient civilisation or society (people, culture, art, politics, hierarchy).	Describe and explain the common traits and motives of leaders and monarchs from different historical periods. Describe some of the significant achievements of mankind and explain why they are important. Create an in-depth study of the characteristics and importance of a past or ancient civilisation or society (people, culture, art, politics, hierarchy).
Change	Changes over time	Explore and discuss similarities between aspects of their life and life in the past, using books, stories and pictures.	Describe changes within or beyond living memory.	Describe how an aspect of life has changed over time.	Summarise how an aspect of British or world history has changed over time.	Answer and ask historically valid questions about changes over time and suggest or plan ways to answer them	Frame historically valid questions about continuity and change and construct informed responses.	Describe the causes and consequences of a significant event in history.
	British history	Listen to and talk about stories describing significant events from the past.	Describe a significant historical event in British history.	Describe and explain the importance of a significant individual's achievements on British history.	Describe how a significant event or person in British history changed or influenced how people live today.	Describe a series of significant events, linked by a common theme, that show changes over time in Britain. Explain the cause, consequence and impact of invasion and settlement in Britain.	Create an in-depth study of an aspect of British history beyond 1066.	Articulate the significance of a historical person, event, discovery or invention in British history.

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	Chronology	Put familiar events in chronological order, using pictures and discussion.	Order information on a timeline.	Sequence significant information in chronological order	Sequence dates and information from several historical periods on a timeline.	Sequence significant dates about events within a historical time period on historical timelines.	Sequence, and make connections between, periods of world history on a timeline.	Articulate and present a clear, chronological world history narrative within and across historical periods studied.
Significance	Significant events	Listen to stories and discuss significant events from the past.	Identify some key features of a significant historical event beyond living memory.	Explain why an event from the past is significant.	Explain the cause and effect of a significant historical event.	Explain in detail the multiple causes and effects of significant events.	Explain why an aspect of world history is significant.	Present a detailed historical narrative about a significant global event.
	Significant people	Share stories and talk about significant people who lived in the past.	Understand the term significant and explain why a significant individual is important.	Use historical models to make judgements about significance and describe the impact of a significant historical individual.	Devise historically valid questions about a significant historical figure and suggest or plan ways to answer them.	Construct a profile of a significant leader using a range of historical sources.	Explore and explain how the religious, political, scientific or personal beliefs of a significant individual caused them to behave in a particular way.	Examine the decisions made by significant historical individuals, considering their options and making a summative judgement about their choices.
Creativity	Report and conclude	Share stories and talk about events in the past.	Create stories, pictures, independent writing and role play about historical events, people and periods.	Present historical information in a simple non-chronological report, independent writing, chart, structural model, fact file, quiz story or biography.	Make choices about the best way to present historical accounts and information.	Present a thoughtful selection of relevant information in a historical report, fictional narrative, in-depth study or by answering a range of historical questions.	Explore the validity of a range of historical reports and use books, technology and other sources to check accuracy.	Think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and present a perspective on an aspect of historical importance.
Communication		<i>Order and sequence a familiar event using words relating to the passage of time, including yesterday, last week, before and then.</i>	Use common words and phrases relating to the passing of time to communicate ideas and observations (here, now, then, yesterday, last week, last year, years ago and a long time ago).	Use the historical terms year, decade and century.	Use historical terms to describe different periods of time. Ask well composed historical questions about aspects of everyday life in ancient periods.	Use more complex historical terms to explain and present historical information.	Articulate and organise important information and detailed historical accounts using topic-related vocabulary.	Use abstract terms to express historical ideas and information.
Local history		Explore and talk about important events in the school or locality's history.	Describe important events in the school's history.	Describe, in simple terms, the importance of local events, people and places.	Analyse a range of historical information to explain how a national or international event has impacted the locality.	Describe and explain the impact of a past society on a local settlement or community.	Investigate an aspect of history or a site dating from beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.	Present an in-depth study of a local town or city, suggesting how to source the required information.
Artefacts and Sources		Make observations about objects and artefacts from the past, such as toys, clothes and other items relating to everyday life.	Use a range of historical artefacts to find out about the past. Express an opinion about a historical source.	Examine an artefact and suggest what it is, where it is from, when and why it was made and who owned it. Use historical sources to begin to identify viewpoint.	Make deductions and draw conclusions about the reliability of a historical source or artefact. Identify and discuss different viewpoints in a range of historical materials and primary and secondary sources.	Explain how the design, decoration and materials used to make an artefact can provide evidence of the wealth, power and status of the object's owner. Identify bias in primary and secondary sources. Interpret a primary source and understand how the context in which it was written influences the writer's viewpoint.	Use a range of historical sources or artefacts to build a picture of a historical event or person. Find evidence from different sources, identify bias and form balanced arguments.	Ask perceptive questions to evaluate an artefact or historical source. Identify different types of bias in historical sources and explain the impact of that bias.