

Suggested Primary Curriculum

HISTORY

Please note: Although this curriculum aims to be chronological, it does not preclude diversions into other events or people of interest such as Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, the Tudors, Victorians or the World Wars. Or, of course, any local historical events, people or places of interest. During children's first few years at school, history may be little more than story-telling and there is probably too much content here for some years. However, anything may be taught earlier or later (or added or left out) at the discretion of the teacher.

Recommended resources:

Long and short timelines for walls; brief overviews, list of rulers (attached).

Junior History Book 1 by Edward Lawlor Brennon, Galore Park

Junior History Book 2 by Michael Web, Galore Park (covers Ancient Greece and Rome)

Junior History Book 3 by Fiona Macdonald, Galore Park (covers Vikings, Anglo Saxons)

So your really want to learn History, Book 1 by Robert Pace, Galore Park (Britain 1066-1,500).

Our Island Story by H.E. Marshall, Civitas/Galore Park, 2005

Greek Myths for Young Children by Marcia Williams, Candlewick, 1995

Oxford First Ancient History by Andrew Solway and Peter Connolly, OUP, 2001

Atticus the Storyteller: 100 Stories from Greece by Lucy Coats, Orion Children's, 2003

Monarchy by David Starkey (Book or DVD)

Ordnance Survey Maps of Ancient Britain and Roman Britain

Year 1 (5/6-year-olds)

BC and AD, long timeline, introduction to archaeology and use of historical evidence

1. A planet without people

Dinosaurs and pterodactyls

Ice Ages

2. Beginnings: nomads become settlers

Stone Age, prehistoric people, houses, settlements, clothes, tools, weaponry, burial sites, standing stones

Stone Age Britain, settlement at Skara Brae

Neolithic Age, first farming

Copper and Bronze Ages, first use of metals

Bronze Age Britain, mining, international trade

Iron Age Britain

3. Foundations

Early civilisations

'The Fertile Crescent'

Mesopotamia, Sargon, Sumer and the Babylonians

First towns and cities, first writing, first irrigation

Plus local history and visits to museums and places of local or national historical interest such as Stonehenge

Year 2 (6/7-year-olds)

Ancient Greece:

Greek gods and heroes

Mycenae, Thebes, Athens and Sparta

Homer and the Trojan Wars (Trojan Horse), The Iliad, The Odyssey

Theseus and the Minotaur

Crete, Knossos and the discoveries of Sir Arthur Evans, Minoan writing

The Persian Wars, the Peloponnesian Wars,

Alexander the Great: Hellenism from the Mediterranean to the Indus

Greek architecture and sculpture, Athens, the Acropolis and Parthenon

Greek athletics (first Olympic Games, 776BC), theatre, democracy and philosophers such as Aristotle and Plato

Greek alphabet and mathematicians such as Euclid and Pythagoras

Ancient China:

Chinese dynasties such as Hsia and Shang, Great Shang in Yellow River area

Qin and the terracotta warriors

Invention of paper, gunpowder, magnetic compass and printing

Pictographic writing

Ancient Egypt:

The Pharaohs, the Sphinx, the Pyramids, mummies

The Valley of the Kings and Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb

Hieroglyphic writing, the Rosetta Stone with Greek, Egyptian and Demotic writing

Alexandria and its lighthouse, library, museum and university

Ancient India:

The Indus Valley, Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa (in what is now Pakistan)

Farming, use of granaries, brick-making

Trade in cotton, spices

Hinduism, Buddhism

Plus local history and visits to museums and other places of interest

Year 3 (7/8-year-olds)

Any necessary revision of Year 2

4. Rome

The Romans and their empire

Romulus and Remus, the founding of Rome (753BC)

Change to a republic

The Etruscans, Lars Porsenna, Horatius Cocles, Spurius Lartius and Titus Herminius

Roman gods, Latin language and writers such as Cicero, Virgil, Horace, Ovid

Roman architecture, baths, temples, villas, theatres and amphitheatres such as the Coliseum

The Roman army, legions, cohorts, centuries, the Roman Mile

Expansion of empire: North Africa, Western Mediterranean, Eastern Mediterranean.

The Punic Wars, Hannibal, quinqueremes

Roman military success married to Greek culture: '*Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit*' ('*Captured Greece captured its fierce conqueror*'), *Horace*

Pompey, Caesar and Cassius, revolt of the gladiators led by Spartacus

Expeditions to Gaul

Claudius, Nero and the invasion of Britain (43AD)

5. Roman Britain

The British tribes before the Roman invasion, Celts, Druids

Roman roads, forts, villas, plumbing, baths and heating

Towns and settlements such as Bath, Chester, Colchester, Lancaster, Lincoln and York

Hadrian's Wall, Vindolanda and the Vindolanda letters

Boudicca's rebellion and the sacking of Colchester and St Albans (60 AD)

6. A new world order

Division of the empire into East (later 'Byzantium') and West.

The adoption and spread of Christianity

The decline of the Roman Empire: the folk migrations across Europe and into the Roman Empire

Anglo-Saxons, Goths, Vandals, Huns, Visigoths, Franks, Alemanni etc.

Plus local history and visits to museums such as the British or Ashmolean Museums. Or places such as Bath, York or Hadrian's Wall

Year 4 (8/9-year-olds) from around 450AD to 1066

7. The New Britain: Celtic, Germanic, Nordic

Britain c.450 A.D. and its tribes, a mixture of Celtic and Roman culture
Angles, Saxons and Jutes, Hengist and Horsa in Kent
Picts and Scots, 'British' Cornwall and 'British' Wales, 'Celtic' Ireland

Saxon farming, great halls, language, clothes, jewellery, law and weapons

Viking warriors, longboats, the story of Beowulf and the Norse gods
Anglo-Saxon kingdoms – Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Sussex, Kent and East Anglia

The Staffordshire treasure found in 2009

Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: Northumbria (Oswald, king of Northumbria), Mercia, Wessex, Sussex, Kent and East Anglia

Early Christianity, Celtic Christianity - monasteries such as Iona (St Columba) and Lindisfarne (St Cuthbert) - Ethelbert and Bertha in Kent, rebuilding of church in Canterbury
Sutton Hoo and Redwald - Wilfred's victory for Rome at the Synod of Whitby
Christian missionaries to the continent from Ireland and England - The Venerable Bede and his Ecclesiastical History of the English People (731)

Rise and fall of Mercia - Offa's Dyke

8. The creation of a first England

The Viking invasions, first Viking raid on Dorchester (786), Viking raid on Lindisfarne (793)
Egbert of Wessex attacked by Vikings (836)

Great Army in Kent (865) and second army in Wessex (870). Viking towns such as Jorvik
Alfred the Great, treaties with Vikings, Danelaw (878).

The fight-back: liberation of the Danelaw and creation of a 'Greater Wessex': England
Athelstan, first king of the English, aldermen and councils

Eric Bloodaxe, his flight from Norway and links with northern Britain

Edgar, the Christian king, development of parishes and monasteries. Edward the Martyr

Viking raid on Maldon (991), Danegeld: Ethelred the Unready and appeasement
The Anglo-Danish realm of Canute and his sons 1016-1042

Harold Godwinson, Edward the Confessor and the Normans

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (925-1016)

Visits to places such as Offa's Dyke or Sutton Hoo. Or, possibly, to see the Bayeux Tapestry

Year 5 (9/10-year-olds) 1066-1272, Norman Conquest to Henry III

9. A second England

King Harold, Harald Hardrada of Norway and William (the Conqueror) of Normandy

The battles of Stamford Bridge and Hastings (1066)

The realities of defeat and conquest

Norman/Romanesque architecture, churches and cathedrals

Castles such as Rochester, Tamworth, Warwick, Windsor

The Domesday Book

Civil war, Stephen de Blois and Matilda

Henry II (1154-1189) and Eleanor of Aquitaine

'New systems of justice'

Thomas Becket, conflict with the Pope

Richard I, the Lionheart (1189-1199)

The Crusades

Legend of Robin Hood

John (1199-1216), Magna Carta (1215), Henry III (1216-1272),

Simon de Montfort and Parliament

Visits to places such as Canterbury Cathedral, Windsor Castle.

History has a unique selling point: alone of all the subjects it provides a knowledge of the past. Knowledge of the past encourages independent thought and informed decision making. Without such knowledge we are limited beings.

History is cause and effect as well as knowledge; at an elevated level it is also about evidence, to be used at the discretion of the teacher. Given the provisional nature of much evidence, it is also about interpretation. However, school history has lost its way because it has concentrated on this higher order canon at the expense of knowledge.

School history is also about the marshalling of material to advance a reasoned argument – essay writing.

The age of 9 or 10, if not earlier, is perhaps a good time to start this.

Year 6 (10/11-year-olds) 1272 to 1485, Edward 1 to Richard III

10. The new England: a framework for the future

An English empire at the expense of Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France

Edward I (1272-1307)

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Edward II (1307-1327)

Battle of Bannockburn (1314)

Edward III (1327-1377)

Battle of Crecy (1346)

The Siege of Calais and the burghers

The Good Parliament

The Hundred Years' War

The Black Death and the flagellants

Richard II (1377-1399) - the Merciless Parliament and the Appellants, the Poll Tax and the Peasants' Revolt, Wat Tyler

Medieval buildings, guilds, punishments, pillories and stocks

Chaucer

Henry IV (1399-1413)

The Welsh Rebellion led by Owain Glydwr

Henry V (1413-1422)

War with France, landing at Harfleur, Battle of Agincourt (1415), march to Calais

Henry VI (1422-1461)

The Kent rebellion led by Jack Cade

The Wars of the Roses (1459-1461)

The Battle of Towton (1461)

Joan of Arc

Founding of Eton College and King's College, Cambridge

Edward IV and Edward V (1461-1483)

Richard III (1483-1485)

The Princes in the Tower

Battle of Bosworth (1485)

Visits to places such as King's College Chapel, The Tower of London or perhaps Harfleur and Agincourt