

History

Unit Overview 2025/2026



By the end of the academic year, the units will cover all the required year group skills and knowledge criteria.

Year Group	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
EYFS	Understanding the World		
Year 1	<p>1960s Toys How do our favourite toys and games compare with those of children in the 1960s?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do historians divide up time? What do people remember about the 1960s? How do the most popular toys and games of the 1960s compare with those of today? Why were there no smart toys and games in the 1960s? How can we make sure we play with smart toys and games safely and securely? What do adults I know remember about the 1960s? 	<p>Great Explorer What does it take to become a great explorer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is Ranulph Fiennes in the Guinness Book of Records? How do Amy Johnson's achievements compare with those of Ranulph? Why did Christopher Columbus sail across an unknown ocean? Why was Neil Armstrong's 'one small step' also a 'great leap' forward? <p>Are you the kind of person who could become a Mars explorer?</p>	<p>Local History Why is the history of my locality important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are your important parts of Hemel Hempstead? Has Hemel Hempstead always looked the same? How is paper made? <p>How did the second World War affect the lives of people where I live?</p>
Year 2	<p>Sappho (Pompeii) Why do we know so much about where Sappho used to live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who was Sappho and where did she live? (Pompeii) Why was Pompeii part of the Roman Empire? What happened to Pompeii on August 24th AD 79? What evidence exists of what happened at Pompeii at August 24th AD 79? Why do we know so much about where Sappho used to live? How did the archaeologists know that people had 	<p>History Makers Who is the greatest history maker?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does it mean for someone to 'make history?' (Guy Fawkes) Which of these people was the greatest history maker? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hatshepsut (first woman of Ancient Egypt to become a pharaoh) Margaret (Margaret Roberts who became Margaret Thatcher, first woman Prime Minister of the United Kingdom) Grace (Grace O'Malley, Irish Chieftain, pirate and independence fighter) 	<p>Charles (WWI) Why was Charles sent to prison?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did Charles do wrong? Why were messenger pigeons so important during World War I? Why were messages sent by pigeon always in code? How did children know that a war was happening in 1916? Why were horses very important during World War I? How did other animals contribute to the war effort?

	<i>been buried under the ash at Pompeii?</i>	<p>4. Malala (Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani human rights activist)</p> <p>5. Marie (Marie Curie, the first person in the world to win two Nobel Prizes in different subjects)</p> <p>6. Elizabeth (Elizabeth I Queen of England)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you like to be remembered as a history maker? 	
Year 3	<p style="text-align: center;">Anglo-Saxon</p> <p>Who were the Anglo Saxons and how do we know what was important to them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did the Romans leave Britain? Who were the Anglo Saxons and why didn't they choose to live in the towns the Romans left behind? How did the lives of Anglo Saxons change after Ethelbert met Augustine? (Conversion to Christianity) How did converting to Christianity change the lives of people in Britain? What does Sutton Hoo tell us about the Anglo Saxon world? 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Victorians</p> <p>Why is Victorian Britain considered a time of change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was life like for children in Victorian Britain? Would you like to attend a Victorian School? How do we know about the industrial revolution? How do Victorian toys compare to toys nowadays? Why was Queen Victoria important? 	<p style="text-align: center;">Stone Age</p> <p>How did the lives of ancient Britons change during the Stone Age? (Stone Age Britain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do people often imagine the Stone Age to be like? Who left their footprints on the beach and what were they doing there? What clues help archaeologists reconstruct how people might have lived in Stone Age Britain? Why did Stone Age Britons spend most of their time living in camps rather than in caves? Why was the Red Lady of Paviland so important? How were people living in Britain at the end of the Stone Age compared with the beginning?
Year 4	<p style="text-align: center;">The Vikings</p> <p>What did the Vikings want in Britain and how did Alfred help to stop them getting it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the "terror" that appeared in Britain on June 8th 793? Why was the design of their longships so important to the Vikings? What were the two treasures that most Viking Norsemen wanted from Britain? Viking horned helmets – historical fact or myth? Why is Alfred the only King or Queen of England to have 'the Great' after their name? 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Iron Age</p> <p>How do artefacts help us understand the lives of people in Iron Age Britain?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we recognise Iron Age hill forts today? What might hill forts have looked like when they were first built? How do we know that life wasn't always very peaceful in the Iron Age? What were staters and how did Iron Age people use them? Why have so many wonderful Iron Age artefacts been found underwater? 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Romans</p> <p>How did the arrival of the Romans change Britain?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did Emperor Claudius invade Britain? Why did the Romans almost lose control of Britain? (War with Boudica) Why was it so important to Claudia Aelia that her friend Lepidina Cerialis came and visited her? Why were Claudia and Lepidina living in Vindolanda (Hadrian's Wall) How do we know so much about the towns the Romans built in Britain? Why did the Romans organise gladiatorial games?

<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Trojan Horse (ancient Greeks) The story of The Trojan Horse: historical fact, legend or classical myth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What exactly is the story of The Trojan Horse?</i> • <i>What evidence exists to authenticate the story of The Trojan Horse?</i> • <i>What other explanations could there be for the origin of the story of The Trojan Horse?</i> 	<p>Hemel Hempstead (local history) What significant changes has Hemel Hempstead undergone?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How did the Tudors affect Hemel Hempstead?</i> • <i>Why is Hemel a new (old) town?</i> • <i>How did WWII change Hemel?</i> • <i>Where can I go to get paper?</i> • <i>How long has Hemel been around?</i> • 	<p>British Empire Why did Britain once rule the largest empire the world has ever seen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why was it said that the sun never set on The British Empire?</i> • <i>Why did Britain build an empire around the world?</i> • <i>What happened to The British Empire?</i> • <i>What happened in Britain between April 2nd and June 14th 1982 and why?</i>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Battle of Britain Why was winning the Battle of Britain in 1940 so important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How serious was the risk of invasion by Nazi Germany in June 1940?</i> • <i>What did Hitler need to achieve if an invasion was going to succeed?</i> • <i>Why did Britain win the Battle of Britain?</i> 	<p>The Maya Why did the ancient Maya change their way of life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Who are the Maya and where do they live?</i> • <i>What are the main occupations of Maya people today?</i> • <i>What did John and Frederick rediscover in 1839?</i> • <i>What do the ruins of Chichen Itza tell us about the lives of ancient Maya?</i> • <i>Why do historians know so much about ancient Maya society?</i> • <i>Why was pok-a-tok more than just a ball game?</i> • <i>Why did the ancient Maya leave their jungle cities?</i> 	<p>Shang Dynasty How did a pile of dragon bones help to solve an Ancient Chinese mystery?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What was odd about the dragon bones that Wang Yirong bought?</i> • <i>What do the engraved bones tell us about the beliefs of the Shang?</i> • <i>Why do we know so much about how some people lived at the time of the Shang and hardly anything about others?</i> • <i>Rise and fall: How did the reign of King Cheng Tang compare with that of King Di Xin?</i> • <i>What made Fu Hao stand out from the crowd?</i>