

# History Knowledge Categories

## Knowledge Categories

History education in primary schools is essential for helping students develop a deep understanding of the past, which in turn fosters a sense of identity and an appreciation of how historical events shape the present and future. To provide a structured and comprehensive approach to teaching history, we have identified five key knowledge categories that form the foundation of this subject. These categories are:





**Definition:** Chronology involves understanding the sequence of historical events and periods. It includes the ability to place events in the correct order and to understand the progression of time.

**Importance:** Teaching chronology helps students build a timeline of significant moments in history, enabling them to contextualise events and recognise the continuity and change over time. It aids in developing a structured understanding of how different periods are interconnected and how historical developments evolve.

**Definition:** Events refer to significant occurrences that have shaped societies and the world. This includes understanding the causes, actions, and consequences of these events.

**Importance:** Learning about key historical events allows students to grasp the factors that drive change and the impact these events have on different aspects of life. It helps them understand the complexity of historical developments and the ripple effects that major events can have on future generations.



**Definition:** Leadership in history refers to influential figures who have played pivotal roles in shaping events and developments. This includes kings, queens, presidents, military leaders, and other notable individuals.

**Importance:** Recognising the role of leaders helps students evaluate the decisions, policies, and actions of influential figures. It provides insight into how leadership can affect societal changes and the broader impact of individual decisions on the course of history. Understanding leadership also fosters critical thinking about power, influence, and responsibility.



**Definition:** Culture encompasses the societal norms, beliefs, practices, arts, and daily life of people in different historical periods. It includes understanding how people lived, what they valued, and how they expressed themselves.

**Importance:** Exploring cultural contexts helps students appreciate the diversity and complexity of human societies. It allows them to see how culture influences and is influenced by historical events and developments. Understanding culture fosters empathy and a deeper appreciation for the human experience across different times and places.

**Definition:** Sources refer to the primary and secondary materials used to research historical events, people, and periods. This includes documents, artefacts, artworks, and written accounts.

**Importance:** Utilising historical sources develops critical thinking, analysis, and interpretation skills. It teaches students to evaluate the reliability and perspective of different sources, helping them construct informed and nuanced understandings of the past. This skill is essential for developing a disciplined approach to studying history and appreciating the complexity of historical narratives.





EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Introduce the concept of time using events in the children's own lives (e.g., birthdays, family history).	<p>Begin understanding the past, present, and future through simple timelines and sequencing.</p> <p>Learn about key events in history such as famous figures (e.g., Florence Nightingale, the Great Fire of London).</p> <p>Explore simple concepts like "before" and "after."</p>	<p>Develop an understanding of time in relation to different historical periods and civilizations.</p> <p>Understand how different periods fit together on a timeline (e.g., Vikings, Romans).</p> <p>Begin to make comparisons between different time periods (e.g., Roman Britain vs. Anglo-Saxon Britain).</p> <p>Develop the ability to place events on a timeline and understand key dates (e.g., Battle of Hastings, the birth of Christ, the founding of the Roman Empire).</p>	<p>Study specific time periods in greater depth (e.g., Tudors, World War II) and place these events in the context of earlier historical periods.</p> <p>Understand and identify significant shifts in history such as the formation of the Church of England under Henry VIII.</p> <p>Learn to create and interpret more complex timelines, comparing major historical events like the Battle of Bosworth (1485) and the start of World War II (1939).</p>



EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Understand and recognise key events in the children's own lives (e.g., birthdays, school events) and how they relate to the passage of time.	<p>Introduce simple historical events that have shaped the world (e.g., the Great Fire of London, the life of Florence Nightingale).</p> <p>Learn about the significance of certain national and global events.</p>	<p>Begin studying key historical events in more detail, such as the Roman invasion of Britain, the Viking raids, and the Battle of Hastings.</p> <p>Understand the sequence and significance of events (e.g., the causes and consequences of the Norman Conquest in 1066).</p>	<p>Study major historical events in depth (e.g., the Reformation, World War II).</p> <p>Learn about the complex causes and effects of significant events, such as how the Battle of Bosworth led to the start of the</p>

	<p>Start exploring the idea of a "story" in history, with a beginning, middle, and end.</p> <p>Explore how different events in the past impacted people and communities, such as the impact of the Great Fire of London on the city.</p>	<p>Learn about the impact of major historical events on society and culture (e.g., how the Romans influenced British architecture, roads, and government).</p> <p>Begin comparing events in different regions (e.g., the Viking invasions in Britain vs. the Anglo-Saxon resistance).</p> <p>Start recognising the causes and effects of events, such as how Roman expansion led to the fall of local tribal communities.</p>	<p>Tudor dynasty and the creation of the Church of England.</p> <p>Understand the interconnectedness of events, e.g., how World War I contributed to World War II, or how the Reformation influenced political power in England.</p> <p>Begin to evaluate the significance of different events and their lasting impact on British and world history.</p> <p>Develop the ability to discuss and compare different events across time periods.</p> <p>Explore the legacy of key events and how they shape contemporary life (e.g., how the World Wars influenced modern political structures and society).</p>
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EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
<p>Introduce basic ideas of leadership in different contexts (e.g., school leaders, community leaders, family leaders).</p>	<p>Learn about key historical figures who were leaders (e.g., Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria, the role of the Prime Minister).</p> <p>Understand the role of a leader and what makes someone a good leader (e.g., kindness, bravery, decision-making).</p> <p>Recognise famous leaders in historical events (e.g., the leadership of Queen Elizabeth II in British history).</p> <p>Discuss what leadership means within a community and how leaders make decisions.</p>	<p>Learn about specific leaders from different periods, such as Kings and Queens (e.g., King Alfred the Great, Richard III).</p> <p>Explore how leaders like Alfred the Great defended Britain from Viking invasions, and how leaders in Roman Britain (e.g., Boudicca) had an impact on their people.</p> <p>Study the leadership of figures from different societies, such as the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, and compare their leadership styles (e.g., the roles of Viking chiefs and Anglo-Saxon kings).</p> <p>Understand how the decisions of leaders influenced key events (e.g., how the leadership of William the Conqueror changed Britain after the Battle of Hastings).</p> <p>Begin to make comparisons between leaders, such as how different rulers led during times of war, peace, or expansion.</p>	<p>Study the leadership of monarchs such as Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and leaders in World War II (e.g., Winston Churchill).</p> <p>Understand how Henry VIII's leadership and decisions around the Reformation and his establishment of the Church of England drastically altered the course of British history.</p> <p>Explore the leadership of Tudor monarchs in times of religious conflict and political change, understanding their influence on society and religion.</p> <p>Compare and contrast leadership during different time periods (e.g., Elizabeth I's leadership of England during the defeat of the Spanish Armada vs. Winston Churchill's leadership during World War II).</p> <p>Discuss the leadership of figures in conflict (e.g., Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth, or military leadership during World War II) and how leaders are remembered for their actions.</p>



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EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Introduce the idea that we learn about the past through sources like pictures, books, and objects.	<p>Use primary sources like photographs, artefacts, or objects (e.g., old toys, tools, maps) to explore the past.</p> <p>Understand how different types of sources help us learn about history (e.g., stories from older generations, pictures of historical figures).</p> <p>Look at sources from familiar events (e.g., the Great Fire of London or the lives of famous people like Florence Nightingale).</p> <p>Discuss how some things from the past have been recorded or passed down, and how those sources help us learn about history.</p> <p>Understand that some events are remembered through personal stories, objects, or pictures.</p>	<p>Introduce the concept of primary and secondary sources (e.g., primary: diaries, letters, photos; secondary: books, documentaries).</p> <p>Use sources to investigate historical events such as the Roman invasion of Britain, Viking raids, or the Battle of Hastings.</p> <p>Examine primary sources like the Bayeux Tapestry or Roman coins to learn about Roman Britain.</p> <p>Compare and contrast different types of sources to build a clearer picture of the past (e.g., comparing a Viking sword to a written record about Viking raids).</p> <p>Study written accounts (e.g., Boudicca's rebellion from Roman historians) and consider their perspective and reliability.</p> <p>Discuss how sources can provide different perspectives on the same event (e.g., a Roman account of a battle versus a Saxon account).</p>	<p>Critically analyse primary and secondary sources, focusing on their reliability, perspective, and bias (e.g., Tudor portraits of Henry VIII and what they reveal about his rule).</p> <p>Use primary sources such as speeches, historical documents, and records (e.g., the Magna Carta, diaries of soldiers in WWII) to investigate key historical events.</p> <p>Study how the context in which a source was created can affect the way we understand historical events (e.g., understanding that official royal portraits may not tell the whole truth about a ruler's reign).</p> <p>Investigate how historical evidence is used to answer questions about the past (e.g., how sources from World War II are used to understand the experiences of people during the war).</p> <p>Consider how our understanding of the past changes with new sources or discoveries (e.g., the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, or new research into Tudor history).</p>

EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
<p>Begin with simple aspects of culture, such as traditions, customs, and festivals, using examples from their own lives and local community.</p>	<p>Explore how people in the past lived differently by looking at everyday objects, clothes, and stories (e.g., toys from different eras, traditional clothing).</p> <p>Discuss significant cultural events and figures (e.g., holidays, royal traditions).</p> <p>Use stories and pictures to help children understand how cultural practices and traditions shape people's lives.</p> <p>Introduce simple comparisons between their own culture and historical cultures (e.g., comparing family life now and in the past).</p> <p>Learn about cultural symbols and their significance (e.g., understanding why the Great Fire of London is remembered).</p>	<p>Learn about the daily lives, traditions, and societal structures of different historical periods (e.g., Roman Britain, Viking society, Ancient Egypt).</p> <p>Explore cultural practices, including art, religion, food, and social hierarchies (e.g., Roman gods and goddesses, Viking longships).</p> <p>Compare cultural aspects of different civilizations and how they influenced each other (e.g., Roman and Anglo-Saxon Britain).</p> <p>Study cultural achievements and their significance (e.g., Roman architecture, Viking craftsmanship).</p> <p>Begin to see how cultural practices change over time and are influenced by historical events (e.g., the influence of the Romans on British culture).</p>	<p>Study the cultural practices and societal changes during specific historical periods (e.g., Tudors, World War II, Maya civilization).</p> <p>Examine how cultural developments influence and are influenced by political and social changes (e.g., the Reformation under Henry VIII).</p> <p>Investigate the cultural impact of major events and figures (e.g., the cultural legacy of Queen Elizabeth I, the societal changes during World War II).</p> <p>Discuss how cultural practices and beliefs shape and are shaped by historical contexts (e.g., the role of propaganda in World War II).</p> <p>Consider how cultural heritage influences modern society (e.g., the lasting impact of Roman law, Tudor architecture, and Maya mathematics).</p> <p>Explore the interaction between different cultures and their contributions to a shared heritage (e.g., the influence of Maya civilization on Central American culture, the blending of Roman and Anglo-Saxon practices in Britain).</p>