



History – Glossary and Topic Vocabulary Document

General Glossary of Historical Terms

Please find below a bank of general historical terms with their associated definitions, these terms have been chosen as they are outlined within the History Primary Curriculum as vocabulary that the children are expected to know by the time they leave their Primary education.

Key Term	Definition
Anachronism	An artefact that belongs to another time.
Chronological order	Listing events in the order that they happened.
Era/period	A period of time that is joined by cultural/historical factors. An example of an era is the Industrial era.
Year	A unit of time equal to 365 days.
Decade	A unit of time that is equal to ten years.
Century	A unit of time that is equal one hundred years / one of the hundred-year periods into which human history is divided.
Millennium	A unit of time that is equal to one thousand years.
B.C.E (Before the Common Era)/B.C (Before Christ)	Used to show that a year or century comes before the year 1 of the calendar used in much of the world, esp. in Europe and North and South America.
C.E (The Common Era)	Used when referring to a year after the birth of Jesus Christ when the Christian calendar starts counting years.
A.D (Anno Domini)	Used when referring to a year after Jesus Christ was born.


Empire	Groups of nations or peoples under the rule of one ruler or government.
Civilisation	A society that has reached an advanced level, including; a system of government and laws, using a written language, and keeping written records.
Parliament	A group of people who make laws for a country.
Peasantry	Individuals of a low social status, including, smallholders and agricultural labourers.
Primary source	An immediate, first-hand account of a topic/event from someone who had a direct connection with it.
Secondary source	Are created after a topic/event by someone who did not have a direct connection with it.
Oral history	Accounts given by a person of events earlier in their life. Often, they are taken by family members, either by audiotape, videotape or transcriptions.




Relevant Topic Vocabulary




Please find below lists of geographical terms relevant to the topics being studied by Year Groups 1-6, the definitions for each of the word.





Year 1


Autumn Term – Treasure Island		Spring Term – Time Travel		Summer Term – A Day in the Life of...	
Pirate <i>Similar words – Piracy, buccaneering, freebooting.</i>	A person who attacks and robs ships at sea.	The Gunpowder Plot	The Gunpowder Plot was a failed attempt to blow up England's King James I (1566-1625) and the	Past	All time before the moment of speaking or writing.




			Parliament on November 5, 1605.		
Steal <i>Similar words – Theft, loot, pinch</i>	Taking something that does not belong to you without permission.	London	The capital of England and the United Kingdom.	Present	Things that exist or are occurring now.
Ship	A large boat used for transporting people and goods by sea.	Houses of Parliament	Where decisions and laws are passed about the United Kingdom. 	Similarities	Things that are common, the same or similar between two people, things or events.
Rigging	The system of ropes or chains employed to support a ship's masts (<i>standing rigging</i>) and to control or set the yards and sails (<i>running rigging</i>).	Guy Fawkes	Was a member of a group English Catholics who planned the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605.	Differences	Things that are different between two people, things or events.

					
Hull	<p>The main body of a ship or other vessel, including the bottom, sides, and deck but not the masts, superstructure, rigging, engines, and other fittings.</p> 	Traitor	A person who betrays someone or something, such as a friend, cause, or principle.	Artefacts	An artefact is an ornament, tool, or other object that is made by a human being, especially one that is historically or culturally interesting.
Bow	<p>The bow is the forward part of the hull of a ship or boat.</p>	Treason	The crime of betraying one's country, especially by attempting to kill or overthrow the sovereign or government.	Significant historical figure	A person or a group of individuals from the past that have made important contributions to society and are therefore remembered for their work.


					
Jolly Rogers	<p>Jolly Roger is the traditional English name for the flags flown to identify a pirate ship about to attack, during the early 18th century.</p> 	Gunpowder	<p>An explosive consisting of a powdered mixture of saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal, now chiefly used for quarry blasting and in fuses and fireworks.</p>	<p>Florence Nightingale</p> 	<p>Florence Nightingale was the founder of modern nursing, she came to prominence when nursing patients in the Crimean War and was responsible for reforming nursing practice and the way in which hospitals were organised and run.</p>
Mast	<p>A tall upright post, spar, or other structure on a ship or boat, in sailing vessels generally carrying a sail or sails.</p>	King James I	<p>The first Stuart to be king of England and Ireland from 1603 to 1625 and king of Scotland from 1567 to 1625.</p>		


				
<p>Crow's nest</p>	<p>A shelter or platform fixed at the masthead of a vessel as a place for a lookout to stand.</p> 	<p>Robert Catesby</p>	<p>Robert Catesby was the leader of a group of English Catholics who planned the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605.</p> 	


		Roman Catholic	A member of the Roman Catholic Church.	
Captain Blackbeard	<p>Was a notorious English pirate who operated around the West Indies and the eastern coast of the American colonies.</p> 	Protestant	A member or follower of any of the Western Christian Churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church in accordance with the principles of the Reformation.	


Anne Bonny	<p>Was an Irish pirate operating in the Caribbean, and one of the most famous female pirates of all time.</p> 	Sir Thomas Knyvet	<p>Was an English courtier and Member of Parliament who played a part in foiling the Gunpowder Plot.</p> 	
Calico Jack	<p>Was an English pirate captain operating in the Bahamas and in Cuba during the early 18th century.</p> 	Gallows	<p>A structure, typically of two uprights and a crosspiece.</p>	

Year 2

Autumn Term – The Earth; Our Home		Spring Term – Buildings (The Great Fire of London)		Summer Term – The Toymaker	
Change	An act or process through which something becomes different. <i>"the change from a nomadic to an agricultural society"</i>	The Stuarts	The Stuart dynasty reigned in England and Scotland from 1603 to 1714.	Victorians	A term used to describe people who lived in the United Kingdom during the reign of Queen Victoria.
Compare	To find similarities between two or more things.	Pudding Lane	The lane where the Great Fire of London began in 1666.	Marionette	An old, wooden puppet that's controlled by wires or strings.
Contrast	To find differences between two or more things.	River Thames	The main river running through the city of London.	Queen Victoria	The Queen of the United Kingdom during the years of 1837 to 1901. 


Cause	A person or thing that gives rise to an action, phenomenon, or condition.	Samuel Pepys	<p>An English diarist who recorded key events in British history, including, the Great Fire of London and the Great Plague of London.</p> 	Affluent	If a person is affluent, they are financially “well off”.
Effect	Cause (something) to happen; bring about.	Thomas Farrinor	The baker who owned the bakery where the Great Fire of London started on 2 nd September 1666.		
		Peasantry	Smallholders and agricultural labourers of low social status.		


		Poverty	The state of being extremely poor.	
		Sir Christopher Wren	<p>Sir Christopher Wren was an English anatomist, astronomer, geometer, and mathematician-physicist, as well as one of the most highly acclaimed English architects of his time. He played an integral role in the redevelopment of London following the Great Fire.</p> 	
		St Paul's Cathedral	A famous landmark in London that was destroyed during the Great Fire of London, but later rebuilt as	

			<p>part of London's redevelopment.</p> 	
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Year 3


Autumn Term – Scavengers and Settlers		Spring Term – Different Places, Similar Lives		Summer Term – A to B	
Neolithic	The later part of the Stone Age, when ground or polished stone weapons and implements prevailed.	The Cadbury Family	The Cadbury family is a prominent British family of industrialists. The family is most famous for founding the chocolate company, Cadburys.	Penny farthing	The penny-farthing, also known as a high wheel, high wheeler and ordinary, was the first machine to be called a "bicycle". It was popular in the 1870s and 1880s, with its large front wheel providing high speeds and comfort.

					
Bronze Age	<p>A prehistoric period that followed the Stone Age and preceded the Iron Age, when weapons and tools were made of bronze rather than stone.</p>	Change	<p>An act or process through which something becomes different.</p> <p><i>"the change from a nomadic to an agricultural society"</i></p>	Horse and cart	<p>A horse and cart refers to a light, simple, two-person carriage of the late 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, drawn usually by one or sometimes by two horses.</p>

					
Stone Age	A prehistoric period when weapons and tools were made of stone or of organic materials such as bone, wood, or horn.	Compare	To find similarities between two or more things.		
Iron Age	A prehistoric period that followed the Bronze Age, when weapons and tools came to be made of iron.	Contrast	To find differences between two or more things.		
Celts	A prehistoric stone or metal implement with a bevelled cutting edge, probably used as a tool or weapon.				

Romans	A citizen or soldier of the ancient Roman Republic or Empire.		
Anglo-Saxons	The Anglo-Saxons were a cultural group who inhabited Great Britain from the 5th century. They comprised people from Germanic tribes who migrated to the island from continental Europe.		
Vikings	Vikings were Norse people primarily from southern Scandinavia (in present-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden), who from the late 8th to late 11th centuries, raided and traded from their Northern European homelands across wide areas of Europe, and explored		

	westwards to Iceland, Greenland, and Vinland.		
Hunter-gatherers	A member of a nomadic people who live chiefly by hunting and fishing, and harvesting wild food.		
Nomad/nomadic	A nomad is a member of a community without fixed habitation which regularly moves to and from the same areas.		
Artefact	An object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.		
Empire	An extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.		


Skara Brae	<p>Skara Brae is a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located on the Bay of Skaill on the west coast of Mainland, the largest island in the Orkney archipelago of Scotland. Consisting of eight clustered houses, it was occupied from roughly 3180 BC to about 2500 BC and is Europe's most complete Neolithic village.</p> 		
Boudica	<p>Was a queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe who led an uprising against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire in AD 60 or 61.</p>		




Julius Caesar


Gaius Julius Caesar, better known by his nomen gentilicium and cognomen Julius Caesar, was a Roman statesman and military general who played a critical role in the events that led to the demise of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire.

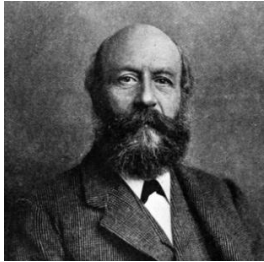





Stonehenge	<p data-bbox="461 199 768 391">Stonehenge is a prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England, two miles west of Amesbury.</p> 		
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Year 4

Autumn Term – Made a Difference		Spring Term – Island Life		Summer Term – Young Entrepreneurs	
The Suffragettes	A woman seeking the right to vote through organized protest.	Change	An act or process through which something becomes different. <i>"the change from a nomadic to an agricultural society"</i>	Heptarchy	A state or region consisting of seven autonomous regions.
Emmaline Pankhurst	<p>Emmeline Pankhurst was a British political activist. She is best remembered for organizing the UK suffragette movement and helping women win the right to vote.</p> 	Compare	To find similarities between two or more things.	Sewing	Sewing is the craft of fastening or attaching objects using stitches made with a needle and thread

Nelson Mandela	<p>Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election.</p> 	Contrast	To find differences between two or more things.	Wages	A wage is monetary compensation (or remuneration, personnel expenses, labour) paid by an employer to an employee in exchange for work done.
John Cadbury	John Cadbury was an English proprietor and			Manufacture	Make (something) on a large scale using machinery.


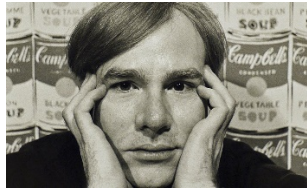
	<p>founder of Cadbury, the chocolate business based in Birmingham, England.</p> 			
Vincent van Gogh	<p>Vincent Willem van Gogh was a Dutch post-impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art.</p> 		Product	<p>In marketing, a product is an object or system made available for consumer use; it is anything that can be offered to a market to satisfy the desire or need of a customer.</p>

Malala Yousafzai	<p>Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate.</p> 		Labour	Work, especially physical work.
Martin Luther King	<p>Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the Civil Rights Movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.</p> 			

equality	The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.		
oppressed/oppression	Subject to harsh and authoritarian treatment.		
segregation	The action or state of setting someone or something apart from others.		
women's suffrage	Women's suffrage is the right of women to vote in elections.		

Year 5

Autumn Term – Moving People		Spring Term – Earth as an Island		Summer Term – What Price Progress
Immigrant/migrant	A person who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.	Pop Art	Pop art is an art movement that emerged in the United Kingdom and the United States during the mid- to late-1950s. The movement presented a challenge to traditions of fine art by including imagery from popular and mass culture, such as advertising, comic books and mundane mass-produced cultural objects.	No History taught this term
Migrate/migration	Migration is the movement by people from one place to another, particularly different countries.	Roy Lichtenstein	Roy Fox Lichtenstein was an American pop artist. During the 1960s, along with Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, and James Rosenquist among others, he became a leading figure in the new art movement. His work	

			<p>defined the premise of pop art through parody.</p> 	
Refuge	A place or situation providing safety or shelter.	Andy Warhol	<p>Andy Warhol was an American artist, film director, and producer who was a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art.</p> 	

Year 6

Autumn Term – Ancient Civilisations		Spring Term – Going Global		Summer Term – Let's Celebrate
Ancient civilisation	The term civilization basically means the level of development at which people live together peacefully in communities. Ancient civilization refers specifically to the first settled and stable communities that became the basis for later states, nations, and empires.	Cultural	Things that historically make up a societies culture. These things include food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion.	No History taught this term
Mayans/Mayas	The Maya civilization was a Mesoamerican civilization developed by the Maya peoples, and noted for its logosyllabic script—the most sophisticated and highly developed writing system in pre-Columbian Americas—as well as for	Economic	How a society has typically made money, includes elements such as production, trade, jobs etc...	

	its art, architecture, mathematics, calendar, and astronomical system.			
Codex	An ancient manuscript text in book form.	Military	This could mean anything as small as a fight between two tribes or a conflict as large as a world war. Military historians record military history.	
Astrology	Astrology is the study of the movements of the planets, sun, moon, and stars in the belief that these movements can have an influence on people's lives.	Religious	A religion is a set of beliefs that is held by a group of people. Religious history examines the religions of different civilisations and their people – why they believe in and why.	
Historical vocabulary linked to coverage of WWI and WWII		Social	Social history, Branch of history that emphasises social structures and the interaction of different groups in society.	
World War I	Also known as the First World War or the Great War, was a global war originating in Europe that	Political	Political history is the narrative and survey of political events, ideas, movements, organs of	

	lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918.		government, voters, parties and leaders.	
World War II	World War II, also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945.	Civilisation	The term civilization basically means the level of development at which people live together peacefully in communities.	
Allies	The Allies of World War II, called the United Nations from the 1 January 1942 declaration, were the countries that together opposed the Axis powers during the Second World War (1939–1945). The Allies promoted the alliance as a means to control German, Japanese and Italian aggression.	Communism	Communism is a type of government as well as an economic system (a way of creating and sharing wealth). In a Communist system, individual people do not own land, factories, or machinery. Instead, the government or the whole community owns these things. Everyone is supposed to share the wealth that they create.	
Axis	Germany, Italy, and Japan, which were allied before and during World War II.	Democracy	Describes a form of government. The word comes from two Greek words that mean “rule by the people.” In a democracy the people have a say in how the government is run. They do	

			this by voting, though there are usually rules about who can vote. Democracies are different from dictatorships.	
Blitz	The Blitz was a German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940 and 1941, during the Second World War.	Socialism	A political and economic theory of social organisation which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.	
War of attrition	A prolonged period of conflict during which each side seeks to gradually wear down the other by a series of small-scale actions.	Activist	A person who campaigns to bring about political or social change.	
Trench warfare	Trench warfare is a type of land warfare using occupied fighting lines largely comprising military trenches, in which troops are well-protected from the enemy's small arms			

	fire and are substantially sheltered from artillery.		
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