

An alternative History National Curriculum (2013) for academies, free schools and independent schools

A syllabus for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 produced by the Campaign for Real Education and the History Curriculum Association for use by schools not bound by the National Curriculum.

School-based training, and support available from the CRE (www.cre.org.uk)

Rationale

The only aspect of history that is unique to the subject is that it is an account of the past. Teaching should not be shackled by having to adhere to concepts such as 'causation', 'continuity' and 'change' that may distort the subject. Teachers should not be required to follow a single teaching methodology or be required to promote particular values. They should be free to decide how they wish to present the subject.

Aim

The aim of this school history curriculum is to provide pupils with a knowledge and understanding of the past, incl. the history of Britain and its relations with the wider world.

Progress and Assessment

Progress should be measured against depth and breadth of knowledge and by the ability to show understanding of that knowledge by deploying it to answer historical questions including essay questions.

Year 1 (ages 5 to 6)

Then and Now, pre-history, the Egyptians

- 1. Then and Now** – simple ideas of the past based on concepts such as “then and now”, “before and after”, “later and earlier”, “last year, this year, next year” This might be based on the child’s own experiences and changes around and to him/her. “How do we know?” should be used to introduce the idea of ‘evidence’.
- 2. A World without People - The Age of the Dinosaurs** e.g. how they lived, fossils, extinction.
- 3. The Stone Ages** e.g. *hunting and gathering, development of tools and techniques, art work.*
- 4. Ancient Egyptians** e.g. geography of Egypt and the gift of the Nile, Lower and Upper Egypt, farming and writing and the start of history (c.f. Sumer), pyramids, gods, mummies & the after-life, Thebes and the Valley of the Kings, stories of famous pharaohs (e.g. Thutmose I, Queen Hatshepsut, Ramesses II) the story of Tutankhamen and Howard Carter, the achievement of Ancient Egypt.
- 5. Timeline to show chronology of events covered in Year 1.**

Year 2 (ages 6 to 7)

Ancient Greece and Ancient China

1. Ancient Greece

- Myths, legends and early history – e.g. stories of Theseus and the Minotaur, the Trojan War, Odysseus, Perseus.
- Religion and the gods.
- Greek settlement overseas, incl. those within Persian Empire. Story of Jason and the Argonauts.
- The Persian Wars – incl. stories of the battles of Marathon, Thermopylae and Salamis. Herodotus as “Father of History”.
- Athens 5th Century BC – e.g. democracy, Parthenon, Socrates, theatres, empire, women, slavery, Herodotus.
- Sparta and how it compared to Athens.
- The Story of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta.
- The story of Alexander the Great, incl. Alexander as pharaoh.
- The legacy of Ancient Greece, incl. the Olympic Games

2. Ancient China around the time of Emperor Qin Shihuang (246BC – 221BC)

- The discovery of the terracotta army in 1974.
- What can we learn from the evidence of the terracotta army?
- The story of the first emperor of China.

- d. Beliefs about the after-life and how they compare with the beliefs in Ancient Egypt and in Ancient Greece.
 - e. Emperor Qin and the first Great Wall of China.
 - f. Life in Ancient China, incl. religion, writing, farming, silk and the later Silk Road.
- 3. Timeline to show chronology of events covered in Years 1 and 2**

Year 3 (ages 7 to 8)

Ancient Romans

- 1. Ancient Rome – stories that Roman children learnt about their city.**
 - a. Legendary origins, incl. Aeneas, Romulus and Remus
 - b. Legend of Horatius on the bridge and founding of a republic
 - c. Legend of how the geese save Rome
- 2. Hannibal, Scipio Africanus and the Punic Wars.**
- 3. Spartacus and the slave rebellion.**
- 4. Julius Caesar, incl. the conquest of Gaul, ‘invasions’ of Britain, crossing the Rubicon, assassination.**
- 5. End of the Republic, incl. Octavian (Augustus), Mark Anthony, Cleopatra (last pharaoh).**
- 6. The Empire under Augustus, incl. Roman rule in ancient Palestine.**
- 7. Roman life, e.g. towns, villas, roads, aqueducts, baths, houses, entertainment, education, food, clothes, calendar, writing. Pompeii AD 79.**
- 8. The Roman Army and military camps.**
- 9. Life in Britain before the Roman conquest.**
- 10. Emperor Claudius and the conquest of southern Britain, incl. character of Claudius and his disabilities.**
- 11. Nero and the revolt of Boudicca.**
- 12. Conquests in northern Britain under Agricola.**
- 13. Life in Roman Britain, incl. Hadrian’s Wall, roads, towns.**
- 14. The story of an African Emperor – Septimus Severus (AD 193-211), incl. invasion of Caledonia and death in Eboracum (York).**
- 15. The story of Emperor Constantine the Great (A.D. 306-337), incl. proclamation as Emperor at Eboracum (York), importance for Christianity, Constantinople.**
- 16. Collapse of the Roman Empire in the West, incl. Britain. Survival of Empire in the east.**
- 17. The legacy of the Romans.**
- 18. Timeline to show chronology of events covered in Years 1 to 3**

Year 4 (ages 8 to 9)

The Early Middle Ages: Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans

1. **Invaders and settlers in Britain at the end of Roman rule**, incl. Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Scots. Resistance and the legend of Arthur. Evidence of place names.
2. **How life in early Anglo-Saxon Britain compared to life in Roman times. The Heptarchy.**
3. **The story of Beowulf.**
4. **Religion and the arrival of Celtic and Roman Christianity**, incl., St. Patrick, St. Columba, St. Cuthbert and St. Augustine, Synod of Whitby 663.
5. **Archaeological finds – Sutton Hoo and the Staffordshire Hoard.** What they tell us about the Anglo-Saxons.
6. **St. Boniface and Anglo-Saxon missionaries.**
7. **St. Bede, Anglo-Saxon monasteries and the ‘Golden Age’ of Northumbria.**
8. **Lindisfarne 793**
9. **Who were the Vikings?** Homelands, how they travelled, where they settled incl. Scotland, Ireland, Normandy, Iceland, Greenland, Vinland, Russia. Viking religion. Icelandic Althing as first ‘parliament’.
10. **Viking settlement in Britain – place name evidence. Danelaw. Jorvik.**
11. **A comparison of monastic accounts (incl. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) and archaeological evidence (incl. Jorvik) in finding out about the Vikings. Problems of evidence for this period (‘Dark Ages’).**
12. **The successes and failures of Alfred the Great (871-899), Athelstan (924-939), Ethelred II (978-1016).**
13. **King Canute (1016-1035) and his European empire** (England, Denmark, Sweden, Norway)
14. **Icelandic sagas.**
15. **Edward the Confessor and Harold II incl:** the events leading to the Norman invasion of 1066 incl. battles of Fulford Gate and of Stamford Bridge. Battle of Hastings. Evidence incl. Bayeux Tapestry.
16. **Timeline to show chronology of events covered in Years 1 to 4**

Year 5 (ages 9 to 10)

Britain and Beyond: William I to Henry III (1066 to 1272)

1. **England under William the Conqueror, incl:-** Tower of London and motte and bailey castles generally, Feudal System, Hereward the Wake, Harrying of the North, Domesday Book, assessments of William as King incl. those from the time. Local evidence of the Normans.
2. **The Norman conquests in southern Italy and Sicily.**
3. **The sons of William the Conqueror – Robert, William II(Rufus), Henry I, incl.**
 - a. The death of William II in the New Forest
 - b. The ‘English’ conquest of Normandy 1106
 - c. How the sinking of the White Ship changed English history by causing the accession of Matilda.
4. **Queen Matilda – England’s first woman ruler.** The war with King Stephen (1135-1154)

- 5. Henry II (1154 - 1189)**
 - a. His marriage to Eleanor and his lands in France.
 - b. Strengthening justice, esp. introduction of a form of jury.
 - c. The story of Thomas Becket
 - d. 'Strongbow' and the beginning of English settlement of Ireland.
 - e. Defeat of Scots (1174) but failure in Wales (Battle of Crogen 1165).
 - f. His rebellious wife and sons.
- 6. The story of the prophet Muhammad (c.570-632) and the subsequent expansion of Islam to east and west. The achievements of the Islamic world by the time of Richard I in England.**
- 7. Richard I(1189-1199), Saladin, and the Crusades**
 - a. Background story of the First Crusade and the crusader states.
 - b. The story of the Third Crusade incl. Richard and Saladin, Muslim and Christian accounts, Richard's captivity and ransom.
 - c. England during the reign of Richard – role of John, legend of Robin Hood, impoverishment.
 - d. Death of Richard and assessment of his reign.
- 8. King John (1199-1216)**
 - a. Reasons for his 'bad' reputation e.g. death of nephew Arthur, loss of Normandy, quarrel with the Pope, dubious taxes and fines, abuse of justice system.
 - b. Reasons why his 'bad' reputation may be unfair e.g. administrative ability, effective taxation, built up naval strength.
 - c. Magna Carta 1216 – how, in promoting the power of the barons, it set some precedents for the rights of the people in general.
 - d. John's rejection of Magna Carta, his war with the barons and his death.
- 9. King Henry III (1216-1272) His struggle with Simon de Montfort and the barons. The origins of Parliament. Battles of Lewes and Evesham.**
- 10. The importance of the Church in medieval life.** Church hierarchy with Pope at apex. The role of the church in people's daily life. Ideas of heaven and hell in context of short life expectation. The role of monasteries and nunneries.
- 11. Timeline to show chronology of events covered in Years 1 to 5**

Year 6 (ages 10 to 11)

Britain and Beyond: Edward I to Henry VII (1272 to 1487)

- 1. Edward I (1272-1307)**
 - a. War against Llewellyn in Wales
 - b. His castles in Wales and how castle building had developed since the time of William I
 - c. Edward as "Hammer of the Scots" – incl. stories of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce
 - d. Eleanor of Castile and the memorial crosses.
- 2. Edward II (1307-1327)**
 - a. The Battle of Bannockburn 1314
 - b. His overthrow.

- 3. Village life and town life.**
- 4. The Black Death**
- 5. The Hundred Years' War (1336-1453)**
 - a. The chronology of English monarchs across the period.
 - b. Edward III and the Battle of Crecy 1346
 - c. Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt 1415
 - d. Joan of Arc
 - e. English retention of Calais.
- 6. The Peasants Revolt (1381)**
- 7. What we can learn from the Canterbury Tales about the late Middle Ages** incl. a tale appropriate for children e.g. Knight's Tale, Pardoner's Tale, Franklin's Tale.
- 8. Marco Polo (c 1254 -1324) and China** – a comparison between China and Britain.
- 9. The Wars of the Roses (1455-1487)**
 - a. The chronology of monarchs
 - b. The role of Queen Margaret of Anjou
 - c. Major battles incl. the Battle of Bosworth (1485) and the Battle of Stoke (1487).
 - d. The mystery of what happened to the Princes in the Tower.
- 10. Timeline to show chronology of events covered in Years 1 to 6**

Year 7 (ages 11-12)

The Beginning of Modern Times (c.1453 – c 1600)

European Renaissance, Reformation and expansion overseas,

- incl. Fall of Constantinople (1453), 15th century Florence, Leonardo and Michelangelo, Sack of Rome (1527), humanists, influence on Britain e.g. St Pauls. Shakespeare?
- printing press, Luther and 95 Theses, Henry VIII as Fidei Defensor, Zwingli, Calvin, wars of Emperor Charles V, Loyola and Counter-Reformation.
- 1492 Defeat of Moors in Granada and Columbus's discovery of America, Cortes in Mexico, Pizarro in Peru, impact of gun technology.

The Reformation in Britain

- Changes under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I
- The Elizabethan settlement
- Internal threats e.g. Pilgrimage of Grace, Mary Queen of Scots, Gunpowder Plot
- External threats e.g. Spanish Armadas, Ireland, missionaries
- John Knox and the Scottish Reformation

Year 8 (ages 12-13)

Britain in the 17th and 18th Centuries

The English Civil war and the Glorious Revolution

- relations between crown and parliament under James I and Charles I and how they broke down
- main events of the Civil Wars
- the story of Cromwell incl his wars in Ireland and his successes abroad. Assessment of Cromwell
- Reasons for the Restoration.
- Fire of London and the story of Christopher Wren
- Why and how there was a second revolution in 1688-89, incl Battle of the Boyne.
- The Bill of Rights (1689) and its relation to Magna Carta (1215) and the Habeas Corpus Act (1679) in promoting liberty.
- Act of Settlement 1701 and its revision in 2011.
- Act of Union 1707 and its significance today.

1759: Quebec, Plassey and the growth of the British Empire.

The Enlightenment and the American Revolution

Slavery and its abolition

Year 9 (ages 13-14)

An outline of British and European History from the French Revolution to the collapse the USSR (1789-1991)

The French Revolution and Napoleon

- Main causes and events of the Revolution
- The story of Napoleon incl. rise to power, military successes, Napoleonic Code
- The story of Nelson incl. battles of Copenhagen, the Nile and Trafalgar.
- The story of Wellington incl. his battles in the Peninsula War
- Battles of Leipzig 1813 and Waterloo 1815

The Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions in Britain

- Population growth, more efficient farming methods, enclosures
- Revolution in iron making, in manufacturing, in transport.
- Social consequences against background of increasing wealth across 19th century in Britain

Aspects of British, European History and World History 1815 - 1991

- Labour movements and the franchise in the UK
- Britain and Ireland, incl Home Rule issue, Easter Rising (1916)
- UK as a world power, incl. wars in Crimea, Sudan, South Africa.
- The Unification of Germany and of Italy
- Causes and course of World War I
- The Wall Street Crash (1929) and the Great Depression
- Causes and course of World War II, incl the Holocaust
- The life and achievement of Winston Churchill
- The Communist Revolution in China
- The Cold War and the Collapse of the Soviet Union
- Decolonisation British Empire and the Falklands War

December 2012