



Year 1: History

Block 1 – Discovering History

Overview of unit:	Substantive Knowledge:	Disciplinary Knowledge:
<p>This unit is designed to develop our Year 1 children’s historical consciousness. It starts by defining history and the role of historians, distinguishing between history and prehistory. Lesson 2 introduces ancestry through family trees, including the Royal family tree, to build understanding of monarchy. Lesson 3 focuses on historical sources, using Mary Seacole as an example, and introduces the concept of historical significance. Lesson 4 covers archaeology, with examples like Must Farm, and its role in understanding the past. Lesson 5 emphasizes local history, encouraging visits to local historical sites. Throughout the unit, our children learn that history involves discovering the past to explain the present.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History is the story of the past. • People who study history are called historians. • Historians uses sources to learn about the past. • Archaeologists find out about the past through looking at things found in the ground. • Things found by archaeologists are called artefacts. • Family trees tell us who lived in the past. 	<p>History: Understanding that history is the story of the past. Historians: Learning that people who study history are called historians. Historical Sources: Knowing that historians use sources to learn about the past. Archaeologists: Understanding that archaeologists find out about the past by examining things found in the ground. Artefacts: Recognising that items found by archaeologists are called artefacts. Family Trees: Learning that family trees tell us who lived in the past.</p>

Sequence:

The ‘Discovering History’ unit introduces our young historians to the discipline of history, helping them understand the roles of historians and archaeologists, and how sources and evidence uncover facts about the past. The key objective is for our children to grasp that history is the story of the past. As they progress through the curriculum, their disciplinary knowledge—how historical knowledge is established and revised—will be continually built upon in each year group.

Block 2 – Kings, Queens and Leaders

Overview of unit:	Substantive Knowledge:	Disciplinary Knowledge:
<p>This unit develops our children’s understanding of significant national and global events within and beyond living memory. It starts by introducing the concept of monarchy, focusing on HRH King Charles III. Lesson 2 explores the changing power of monarchs, highlighting King John’s absolute rule and the Magna Carta. Lesson 3 covers Simon de Montfort’s establishment of parliament. Lesson 4 examines King Charles I’s belief in the ‘Divine Right of Kings’ and the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England has been ruled by Kings and Queens for a long time. • His Royal Highness King Charles III is our current king. • King John was forced to sign the Magna Carta by the Barons. • Parliament was set up to make decisions for the country. • There was a time when there was no King of England. • Oliver Cromwell was called upon to rule the country and become the ‘Lord Protector 	<p>Kings and Queens: Understanding that England has been ruled by kings and queens for a very long time. Magna Carta: Learning that a long time ago, King John had to sign an important paper called the Magna Carta because the Barons told him to and understanding what caused the Barons to force King John to seal the Magna Carta. Parliament: Understanding that Parliament was created to help make important decisions for the country.</p>

<p>English Civil War. Lesson 5 discusses Oliver Cromwell’s rule as ‘Lord Protector’ and his religious influence on laws. Overall, the unit helps our historians understand the shift from absolute to constitutional monarchy and the role of religion in British history.</p>		<p>Oliver Cromwell: An understanding of the time when England didn’t have a king, a man named Oliver Cromwell was asked to lead the country and he was called the ‘Lord Protector.’</p>
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Sequence:
 Our ‘Kings, Queens & Leaders’ unit lays the foundation for understanding the evolving power of the British monarchy. It explores the shift from all-powerful monarchs to the establishment of parliament, providing a basis for understanding modern society and politics. The unit begins with recent history, focusing on HRH Charles III and Queen Elizabeth II, and then examines other kings and leaders chronologically. By sequencing events on a timeline, our Year 1 historians develop chronological understanding. Significant events like Simon de Montfort’s first parliament and the Magna Carta are highlighted, offering spaced practice to reinforce their historical significance.

Block 3– Parliament and Prime Ministers

Overview of unit:	Substantive Knowledge:	Disciplinary Knowledge:
<p>This unit is designed to help our historians understand significant national and global events within and beyond living memory, and the lives of notable individuals who contributed to these achievements. It begins with the Magna Carta, exploring the concept of power and the Bill of Rights signed by Queen Mary II and William of Orange. Subsequent lessons cover the role of Parliament, highlighting Simon de Montfort, the role of the Prime Minister with a focus on Robert Walpole, and the current Prime Minister. The unit concludes with the concepts of voting and democracy, which will be further developed in later lessons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William and Mary signed the Bill of Rights. • Parliament makes decisions about our country. • The Prime Minister is the leader of the government. • The Prime Minister leads the country. • Robert Walpole is considered by historians to have been the first Prime Minister. • Adults vote to choose the people who run our country. 	<p>Historical Documents: Introduction to the Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights, highlighting their importance in establishing parliamentary democracy.</p> <p>Parliament’s Role: Understanding how Parliament functions and its role in making laws and governing the country.</p> <p>Prime Minister’s Role: Learning about the responsibilities and decision-making processes of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Significant Figures: Studying notable individuals like Simon de Montfort, known as the Father of English Parliament, and Robert Walpole, the first Prime Minister.</p> <p>Concepts of Power and Governance: Grasping the basic concepts of power, governance, and democracy.</p> <p>Foundation for Future Learning: Building a foundation for more complex studies in later years.</p>

Sequence:
 This unit builds on the ‘Kings, Queens & Leaders’ unit by introducing the concept of continuity and change, focusing on the declining power of the monarchy and the rising influence of the Prime Minister and Parliament. It aims to help our historians understand constitutional monarchy and modern politics. Future units will explore constraints on monarchical power, the development of democracy, and the role of Parliament in various historical contexts. The curriculum will also highlight significant Prime Ministers and MPs, providing a strong foundation of knowledge and vocabulary to support understanding as our children progress.