Progression of Knowledge and Skills: History

Version 2: Updated December 2023 following Ofsted subject review from July 2023.



1. This is the overarching substantive knowledge and that underpins all of the history learning.

2. Topic knowledge, understanding chronology and abstract concepts are then subject to disciplinary procedures.

This means that the 'facts and figures' of history are subject to 'doing' history using enquiries and questioning.

3. Finally, we arrive at the units of history that are studied.

Each of these units contains the 5 substantive and disciplinary skills, as explained above.

Units are split into British history (KS2 only) and both local and world history (KS1 and KS2)

Substantive Knowledge			
Topic Knowledge	Chronological Awareness	Substantive (abstract) concepts	
Gaining a rich knowledge of the current topic, time period, society or event being studied.	Understanding language related to chronology.	Power (monarchy, government and empire)	
This knowledge is not included on the progression document because it is not	Building a mental timeline of the chronological order of periods.	Invasion, settlement and migration Civilisation (social and cultural)	
always progressive. It is, however, important in widening pupils' Chronological awareness and	Developing awareness of general features of periods.	Tax and trade	
understanding of Substantive (abstract) concepts.	Knowing particular dates and events.	Beliefs Achievements and follies of mankind	

Disciplinary Knowledge			
Historical Enquiry	Disciplinary Concepts		
Change and continuity	Posing a historical question		
Similarities and differences	Gathering, organising and evaluating evidence		
Cause and consequence	Interpreting findings, analysing and making connections		
Historical significance			
Sources of evidence	Evaluating and drawing conclusions		
Historical interpretations	Communicating findings		

Alveley's History Curriculum

British History Local/ World History

Chronological Awareness

Years 1/2	Years 3/4	Years 5/6
-Sequencing up to six artefacts on a timelineSequencing up to six photographs, focusing on the intervals between eventsSequencing up to six events on a timelineBeginning to recognise how long each event lastedKnowing where people/events studied fit into a chronological frameworkUsing common words and phrases for the passing of time (e.g. now, long ago, then, before, after).	-Sequencing events on a timeline, referring to times studied in KS1 to see where these fit in. -Understanding that history is divided into periods of history e.g. ancient times, middle ages and modern. -Using dates to work out the interval between periods of time and the duration of historical events or periods. -Using BC/AD/Century. -Sequencing eight to ten artefacts, historical pictures or events. -Beginning to develop a chronologically secure knowledge of local, British and world history across the periods studied. -Placing the time studied on a timeline. -Using dates and terms related to the unit and passing of time e.g. millennium, continuity and ancient. -Noticing connections over a period of time. -Making a simple individual timeline. -Sequencing events on a timeline, referring to times studied in KS1 to see where these fit in. -Understanding that history is divided into periods of history e.g. ancient times, middle ages and modern. -Using dates to work out the interval between periods of time and the duration of historical events or periods. -Using BC/AD/Century. -Sequencing eight to ten artefacts, historical pictures or events. -Beginning to develop a chronologically secure knowledge of local, British and world history across the periods studied. -Placing the time studied on a timeline. -Using dates and terms related to the unit and passing of time e.g. millennium, continuity and ancient. -Noticing connections over a period of time. -Making a simple individual timeline.	-Sequencing events on a timeline, comparing where it fits in with times studied in previous year groupsUnderstanding the term "century" and how dating by centuries worksPutting dates in the correct centuryUsing the terms AD and BC in their workUsing relevant dates and relevant terms for the period and period labels e.g.Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Romans, Tudors, Greeks, Aztecs, and Victorians -Developing a chronologically secure understanding of British, local and world history across the periods studiedPlacing the time, period of history and context on a timelineRelating current study on timeline to other periods of history studiedComparing and making connections between different contexts in the pastSequencing 10 events on a timelineSequencing events on a timelineSequencing events on a timeline, comparing where it fits in with times studied in previous year groupsUnderstanding the term "century" and how dating by centuries worksPutting dates in the correct centuryUsing the terms AD and BC in their workUsing relevant dates and relevant terms for the period and period labels e.g. Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Romans, Tudors, Greeks, Aztecs, and Victorians -Developing a chronologically secure understanding of British, local and world history across the periods studiedPlacing the time, period of history and context on a timelineRelating current study on timeline to other periods of history studiedComparing and making connections between different contexts in the pastSequencing 10 events on a timeline.

Substantive (Abstract) Concepts

	Years 1/2	Years 3/4	Years 5/6
Power (monarchy, government and empire)	-To know that a monarch in the UK is a king or queenTo begin to understand that power is exercised in different ways in different culture, times and groups e.g. monarchyTo know that Britain was organised into kingdoms and these were governed by monarchs.	-To understand the development of groups, kingdom and monarchy in BritainTo know who became the first ruler of the whole of EnglandTo understand the expansion of empires and how they were controlled across a large empireTo understand that societal hierarchies and structures existed including aristocracy and peasantryTo understand some reasons why empires fall/collapse.	-To understand how the monarchy exercised absolute powerTo understand the process of democracy and parliament in BritainTo understand that different empires have different reasons for their expansionTo understand that there are changes in the nature of societyTo know that there are different reasons for the decline of different empires.
Achievements and follies of mankind	-To know and begin to identify some achievements and inventions that still influence their own lives today (e.g. toys, schools, travel)To know some achievements and discoveries of significant individuals (e.g. explorers)To know the legacy and contribution of some inventions (e.g. flight)To be aware of the achievements of significant individuals (e.g. those involved with the history of flight).	-To be able to identify achievements and inventions that still influence our lives today from Roman timesTo know the legacy and contribution of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings to life today in BritainTo be aware of the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians.	-To understand that people in the past were as inventive and sophisticated in thinking as people todayTo know that new and sophisticated technologies were advanced which allowed cities to developTo understand the impact of war on local communitiesTo know some of the impacts of war on daily livesTo understand that people in the past were as inventive and sophisticated in thinking as people todayTo know that new and sophisticated technologies were advanced which allowed cities to develop.
Invasion, settlement and migration		 -To know that there were different reasons for invading Britain. -To understand that there are varied reasons for coming to Britain. -To know that there are different reasons for migration. -To know that settlement created tensions and problems. -To understand the impact of settlers on the existing population. -To understand the earliest settlements in Britain. -To know that settlements changed over time. 	-To understand there are increasingly complex reasons for migrants coming to BritainTo understand that migrants come from different parts of the worldTo know about the diverse experiences of the different groups coming to Britain over time.

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Civilisation (social and cultural)	-To understand how invaders and settlers influence the culture of the existing populationTo understand that society was organised in different ways in different cultures and times and consisted of different groups with different roles and lifestylesTo know that education existed in some cultures, times and groups.	-To understand the changes and reasons for the organisation of society in BritainTo understand how society is organised in different cultures, times and groupsTo be able to compare development and role of education in societiesTo be able to compare education in different cultures, times and groupsTo understand the changing role of women and men in BritainTo understand that there are differences between early and later civilisations.
Trade	-To know that communities traded with each other and over the English Channel in the Prehistoric PeriodTo understand that trade began as the exchange of goodsTo understand that trade routes existed between Britain in the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking timesTo understand that the Roman invasion led to a great increase in British trade with the outside worldTo understand that trade develops in different times and ways in different civilisationsTo understand that the traders were the rich members of society.	To know that trade routes from Britain expanded across the world. To understand there was a race to discover new countries and that this resulted in new items to be traded in (e.g. silk, spices and precious metals. To understand that the expansion of trade routes increased the variety of goods available. To understand that the methods of trading developed from in person to boats, trains and planes. To understand the development of global trade. To understand that trading ships and centres (e.g. York) were a reason for the Vikings raiding Britain.
Beliefs	-To understand that there are different beliefs in different cultures, times and groupsTo know about paganism and and the introduction of Christianity in BritainTo know how Christianity spreadTo compare the beliefs in different cultures, times and groups.	-To be aware of the different beliefs that different cultures, times and groups holdTo understand the changing nature of religion in Britain and its impactTo be aware of how different societies practise and demonstrate their beliefsTo be able to identify the impact of beliefs on society.

Historical Enquiry

	Years 1/2	Years 3/4	Years 5/6
Posing historical questions	-Asking questions about sources of evidence (e.g. artefacts)Asking a range of questions about stories, events and peopleUnderstanding the importance of historically-valid questions.	-Understanding how historical enquiry questions are structuredCreating historically-valid questions across a range of time periods, cultures and groups of peopleAsking questions about the main features of everyday life in periods studied, e.g. how did people liveCreating questions for different types of historical enquiryAsking questions about the bias of historical evidence.	-Planning a historical enquirySuggesting the evidence needed to carry out the enquiryIdentifying methods to use to carry out the researchAsking historical questions of increasing difficulty e.g. who governed, how and with what results? -Creating a hypothesis to base an enquiry onAsking questions about the interpretations, viewpoints and perspectives held by others.
Gathering, organising and evaluating evidence	-Understanding how we use books and sources to find out about the pastUsing a source to answer questions about the pastEvaluating the usefulness of sources to a historical enquirySelecting information from a source to answer a questionIdentifying a primary source.	-Using a range of sources to construct knowledge of the past. -Defining the terms 'source' and 'evidence'. -Extracting the appropriate information from a historical source. -Selecting and recording relevant information from a range of sources to answer a question. -Identifying primary and secondary sources. -Identifying the bias of a source. -Comparing and contrasting different historical sources.	-Using different sources to make and substantiate historical claimsDeveloping an awareness of the variety of historical evidence in different periods of timeDistinguishing between fact and opinionRecognising 'gaps' in evidenceIdentifying how sources with different perspectives can be used in a historical enquiryUsing a range of different historical evidence to dispute the ideas, claims or perspectives of othersConsidering a range of factors when discussing the reliability of sources, e.g. audience, purpose, accuracy, the creators of the source.
Interpreting findings, analysing and making connections	-Interpreting evidence by making simple deductionsMaking simple inferences and deductions from sources of evidenceDescribing the main features of concrete evidence of the past or historical evidence (e.g. pictures, artefacts and buildings)Making links and connections across a unit of studySelecting and using sections of sources to illustrate and support answers.	-Understanding that there are different ways to interpret evidenceInterpreting evidence in different waysUnderstanding and making deductions from documentary as well as concrete evidence e.g. pictures and artefactsMaking links and connections across a period of time, cultures or groupsAsking the question "How do we know?"	-Interpreting evidence in different ways using evidence to substantiate statementsMaking increasingly complex interpretations using more than one source of evidenceChallenging existing interpretations of the past using interpretations of evidenceMaking connections, drawing contrasts and analysing within a period and across timeBeginning to interpret simple statistical sources.
Evaluating and drawing conclusions	-Making simple conclusions about a question using evidence to support.	-Understanding that there may be multiple conclusions to a historical enquiry questionReaching conclusions that are substantiated by historical evidenceRecognising similarities and differences between past events and today.	-Reaching conclusions which are increasingly complex and substantiated by a range of sourcesEvaluating conclusions and identifying ways to improve conclusions.
Communicating findings	-Communicating answers to questions in a variety of ways, including discussion, drama and writing (labelling, simple recount)Using relevant vocabulary in answersDescribing past events and people by drawing or writingExpressing a personal response to a historical story or event through discussion, drawing our writing.	-Communicating knowledge and understanding through discussion, debates, drama, art and writingConstructing answers using evidence to substantiate findingsIdentifying weaknesses in historical accounts and argumentsCreating a simple imaginative reconstruction of a past event using the evidence available to draw, model, dramatise, write or retell the storyCreating a structured response or narrative to answer a historical enquiryDescribing past events orally or in writing, recognising similarities and differences with today.	-Communicating knowledge and understanding in an increasingly diverse number of ways, including discussion, debates, drama, art, writing, blog posts and podcastsShowing written and oral evidence of continuity and change as well as indicting simple causationUsing historical evidence to create an imaginative reconstruction exploring the feelings of people from the timeConstructing structured and organised accounts using historical terms and relevant historical information from a range of sourcesConstructing explanations for past events using cause and effectUsing evidence to support and illustrate claims.

Disciplinary Concepts

	Years 1/2	Years 3/4	Years 5/6
Change and continuity	-Being aware that some things have changed and some have stayed the same in their own livesDescribing simple changes and ideas/objects that remain the sameUnderstanding that some things change while other items remain the same and some are newRecognising some things which have changed/stayed the same as the pastIdentifying simple reasons for changesTo know that people change as they grow olderTo know that throughout someone's lifetime, some things will change and some things will stay the sameTo know that everyday objects have changed over time.	-Identifying reasons for change and reasons for continuitiesIdentifying what the situation was like before the change occurredComparing different periods of history and identifying changes and continuityDescribing the changes and continuity between different periods of historyIdentifying the links between different societiesTo know that change can be brought about by advancements in transport and travelTo know that change can be brought about by advancements in materialsTo know that change can be brought about by advancements in trade.	-Making links between events and changes within and across different time periods / societiesIdentifying the reasons for changes and continuityDescribing the links between main events, similarities and changes within and across different periods/studiedDescribing the links between different societiesExplaining the reasons for changes and continuity using the vocabulary and terms of the period as wellAnalysing and presenting the reasons for changes and continuityTo know that change can be brought about by conflictTo know that change can be traced using the census.
	-To know that daily life has changed over time but that there are some similarities to life today.		
Cause and consequence	-Asking questions about why people did things, why events happened and what happened as a resultRecognising why people did things, why events happened and what happened as a resultTo know that everyday objects have changed as new materials have been inventedTo know that changes may come about because of improvements in technology.	-Identifying the consequences of events and the actions of peopleIdentifying reasons for historical events, situations and changesTo know that the actions of people can be the cause of change (eg. Lord Shaftesbury)To know that advancements in science and technology can be the cause of change.	-Giving reasons for historical events, the results of historical events, situations and changesStarting to analyse and explain the reasons for, and results of historical events, situations and changeTo know that members of society standing up for their rights can be the cause of change.
Similarities and differences	-Beginning to look for similarities and differences over time in their own livesIdentifying similarities and difference between ways of life at different timesFinding out about people, events and beliefs in societyMaking comparisons with their own livesTo know that there are similarities and differences between their lives today and their lives in the pastTo know some similarities and differences between the past and their own livesTo know that people celebrate special events in different waysTo know that everyday objects have similarities and differences with those used for the same purpose in the past -To know that there are explanations for similarities and differences between children's lives now and in the past.	-Identifying similarities and differences between periods of historyExplaining similarities and differences between daily lives of people in the past and todayIdentifying similarities and differences between social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity in Britain and the wider world.	-Describing similarities and differences between social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity in Britain and the wider worldMaking links with different time periods studiedDescribing change throughout time.
Historical Significance	-Recalling special events in their own livesDiscussing who was important in a historical eventTo know that some people and events are considered more 'special' or significant than others.	-Recalling some important people and eventsIdentifying who is important in historical sources and accountsTo know that significant archaeological findings are those which change how we see the past.	-Identifying significant people and events across different time periodsComparing significant people and events across different time periodsExplain the significance of events, people and developments.

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	-To know that some events are more significant than others.	-To know that 'historically significant' events are those which changed many people's lives and had an impact for many	-To know how historians select criteria for significance and that this changes.
	-To know the impact of a historical event on	vears to come.	triat tris trianges.
	society.	years to come.	
	-To know that 'historically significant' people are		
<u> </u>	those who changed many people's lives.		
Sources of	-Using artefacts, photographs and visits to	-Using a range of sources to find out about a period.	-Recognising primary and secondary sources.
evidence	museums to ask and answer questions about the	-Using evidence to build up a picture of a past event.	-Using a range of sources to find out about a particular
	past.	-Observing the small details when using artefacts and	aspect of the past.
	-Making simple observations about a source or	pictures.	-Identifying bias in a source and identifying the value of the
	artefact.	-Identifying sources which are influenced by the personal	sources to historical enquiry and the limitations of sources.
	-Using sources to show an understanding of	beliefs of the author.	-Describing how secondary sources are influenced by the
	historical concepts (see above).	-To know that archaeological evidence can be used to find	beliefs, cultures and time of the author.
	-Identifying a primary source.	out about the past.	-To know that a census is carried out every ten years and is
	-To know that photographs can tell us about the	-To know that we can make inferences and deductions using	an official survey of the population which records every
	past.	images from the past.	person living in a household on a specific date.
	-To know that we can find out about the past by		-To understand the types of information that can be
	asking people who were there.		extracted from the census.
	-To know that artefacts can tell us about the past.		-To understand that inventories are useful sources of
	-To know that we remember some (but not all) of		evidence to find out about people from the past.
	the events that we have lived through.		-To understand some of the key terms on the census, for
	-To know that we can find out about how places		example, scholar, ditto, occupation and marital status.
	have changed by looking at maps.		-To understand how to compare different census extracts
	-To know that historians use evidence from sources		by analysing the entries in individual columns.
	to find out more about the past.		-To know that the most reliable sources are primary
			sources which were created for official purposes.
Historical	-Recognising different ways in which the past is	-Identifying and giving reasons for different ways in which the	-Comparing accounts of events from different sources.
interpretations	represented (including eye-witness accounts).	past is represented.	-Suggesting explanations for different versions of events.
	-Comparing pictures or photographs of people or	-Identifying the differences between different sources and	-Evaluating the usefulness of historical sources.
	events in the past.	giving reasons for the ways in which the past is represented.	-Identifying how conclusions have been arrived at by
	-Developing their own interpretations from	-Exploring different representations from the period e.g.	linking sources.
	artefacts, photographs and written sources.	archaeological evidence, museum evidence, cartoons and	-Developing strategies for checking the accuracy of
	-To know that the past can be represented in	books.	evidence.
	photographs.	-Evaluating the usefulness of different sources.	-Addressing and devising historically valid questions.
	-To know that the past is represented in different	-To know that archaeological evidence has limitations: it	-Understanding that different evidence creates different
	ways.	does not give all the answers or tell us about the emotions of	conclusions.
		people from the past.	-Evaluating the interpretations made by historians.
		-To know that assumptions made by historians can change in	-To know that we must consider a source's audience,
		the light of new evidence.	purpose, creator and accuracy to determine if it is a
			reliable source.
			-To understand that there are different interpretations of
			historical figures and events.