



History Terminology

Key Concepts

Term	Meaning
Empire	A group of nations ruled by one ruler or government.
Industry	Workplaces which turn raw materials into finished products or provide a service.
Trade	The action of buying and selling goods or services.
Migration	The movement of people to a new place to find better living conditions.
Settlement	A place where people have settled to live.
Monarchy	A form of government where the leader, like a king or queen, inherits the throne and holds the position for life or until they choose to abdicate.

Foundation Stage

Term	Meaning	Example
Past	Something that has already happened.	
Same	Things that are identical.	
Different	Things that are not the same as each other.	
Remembrance	A memory of a person, thing or event.	

Year 1

Term	Meaning	Example
Timeline	A way to understand and organise the past.	



Historian	A person who studies the past.	
Significant	A person or event from the past that is important because they made changes.	
Modern	An object, event or person from the recent past.	
Symbol	A mark or sign that represents an idea or group.	Poppies are symbol of remembrance.
Artefact	Objects made by humans in the past.	
Living memory	Historical people or events that happened within the last 100 years.	
Fact	Statements that we know are true.	

Year 2

Term	Meaning	Example
Opinion	Statements that show what a person thinks or feels about something.	
Chronological	The order in which events happened.	
Source	Something that gives you information about the person or event you are learning about.	
Cause	Something that makes a key event or change happen.	Poor hygiene in hospitals caused Florence to make changes.
Effect	What happened after a key change in history.	Florence's new practises are still being used today.
Reasoning	Using all the facts you have gathered to make a decision.	
Voyage	A journey across long distances, especially by sea.	



Year 3

Term	Meaning	Example
BC/AD	BC – Before Christ – Before the estimated birth of Jesus Christ. AD – Anno Domini – Latin for ‘in the year of our Lord’ – After the estimated birth of Jesus Christ.	
Time period	Several years or decades in history that have an overarching feature in common.	
Prehistory	A time before written records.	
Conflict	A serious disagreement or argument which can occur between two people or groups of people.	
Peace	A time without any fighting, disagreements or wars.	
Civilisation	A complex society that has developed advanced systems of government, culture and technology.	Ancient Egypt is the earliest civilisation we study.
Emperor/Empress	A person in charge of an Empire.	

Year 4

Term	Meaning	Example
Sequence	Putting historical people, events or time periods in order.	
Primary source	An original source that comes from the time being studied or from a person who was there during the event.	Photographs, paintings, artefacts, diaries, speeches, maps, newspapers
Secondary source	A source that gives viewpoints and facts based on primary sources.	Textbooks, websites, biographies
Evidence	A collection of sources that suggest whether something is true or not.	
Reliable	A source that is likely to give us information that is close to the truth of what really happened.	Primary sources are more reliable than secondary sources



		because they come from the time when the event happened.
Bias	The viewpoint of the person who created the source which is based on opinion rather than fact.	Newspapers can be biased because they often show the viewpoint of the person who wrote the article.

Year 5

Term	Meaning	Example
Change & Continuity	Understanding that some things change while others stay the same.	A house will always have a door (continuity) but what it is made out of will change over time (change).
Invasion	To enter a place and take over as an enemy.	
Conquer	The act of taking control of a country or city through the use of force.	
Interpretation	One person's understanding of a source of evidence.	Two people may look at a painting but interpret it differently based on their own inferences.
Justify	Explain how you know something or why you made that interpretation.	I think this source shows... because...
Tribe	A group of people, families or villages that share the same language, customs and beliefs.	

Year 6

Term	Meaning	Example
Concurrence	Events or time periods that are happening at the same time.	



Impact	How an event or time period changed people's lives.	
Legacy	Something that continues from one period of time into another.	Danelaw
Political	The changes in how governments are run through a time period or event.	
Cultural	The changes in patterns of behaviour shared by a group of people through a time period or event.	
Accuracy	Information that is reliable and true.	Newspaper reports are not always accurate or reliable despite being a primary source.
Evaluate	Reaching an informed judgement about the value of a source to the topic you are learning about.	I think this source is useful because it shows...