

History Progression Grid – KS2

Year 3-6

Aspect	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Chronological Understanding	Place events on a simple timeline; use BC/AD; recognise prehistoric vs ancient history	Sequence Roman, Saxon and Viking periods; understand overlap in British history	Place world civilisations alongside British history; recognise simultaneous periods	Confidently move between ancient and modern periods; link past to present
Greater Depth	Explain why one period comes before another	Explain overlaps and transitions between periods	Explain relationships between simultaneous civilisations	Evaluate long-term patterns and turning points across periods
Use of Historical Sources	Use artefacts, images and simple texts to find out about the past	Compare different sources; recognise that evidence can differ	Evaluate reliability of sources; understand viewpoints	Analyse bias, propaganda and interpretation using primary and secondary sources
Greater Depth	Explain what a source can and cannot tell us	Suggest reasons why sources give different accounts	Justify how reliable a source is using evidence	Critically assess usefulness, bias and purpose of sources
Historical Vocabulary	Use basic historical vocabulary accurately	Use subject-specific terms in context	Use a wide range of historical terminology confidently	Select and apply precise terminology independently
Greater Depth	Begin to define terms in own words	Apply terms accurately in explanations	Use terminology to support arguments	Use terminology to critique interpretations
Similarity and Difference	Identify similarities and differences in ways of life	Compare societies (Roman vs Saxon; Viking raiders vs settlers)	Compare civilisations across time and place (Maya vs Tudors)	Evaluate similarities and differences and their significance
Greater Depth		Link similarities and differences to causes	Evaluate which similarities/differences are most important	Judge significance of similarities and differences
Historical Enquiry and Questions	Ask simple historical questions	Ask questions about cause and consequence	Develop enquiry questions and support answers with evidence	Form independent enquiries; evaluate significance and interpretations
Greater Depth	Ask “why” and “how” questions	Ask increasingly analytical questions	Refine enquiry questions during investigation	Form substantiated judgements and challenge interpretations