



ESW History Curriculum – Vocabulary Progression

Year 1	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Chronology	Putting events in the right time order	Past	A time that has already happened	Record	Information that tells us about the past
	Family Tree	A picture that shows how the different members of a family are related	Old	Someone or something that has been around for a long period of time	Church	A Christian building used for worship
	Change	How things do not stay the same	New	Something that has been around for a short period of time	Artefact	An object from the past
	Consequence	Something that happens because of things that have changed before	Change	Not the same	Local	Part of or close to a settlement
	Similar	Almost the same but a bit different	Game	An organised activity with rules	Settlement	People living together in one place
	Different	Not the same	Source	Something that gives us information on an event or topic. a diary, book or a photograph	Memorial	A statue or writing to help people remember something or someone
	Timeline	A list of important events or changes arranged in the order in which they happened	Museum	a building that holds a collection of objects that are found in nature or objects that people created	Evidence	Records, artefacts or information created in the past
	Significant	An important thing that happens, that has consequences for people and places	Artefact	An object made by a human being	Country	An area of land with its own government, rules and borders

Year 2	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Inventor	The person who first comes up with a brand-new idea or thing is its inventor	Monarch	A king or queen who has gained their position by birth	Source	A place, person, or thing where something has come from
	Steam power	An engine worked by steam	Queen	A female ruler	Diary	A book where someone keeps a daily record of events and experiences
	Engineer	A person whose job is to design or build machines, engines or things such as roads, railways or bridges	Royal	A king or queen or member of their family	Witness	A person who sees an event take place
	Biography	A written history of a person's life	Coronation	The ceremony of crowning a king or queen	Different	Not the same
	Significant	Important enough to have made a difference to things and people	Westminster Abbey	A large church on London	Similar	Nearly the same but a little bit different
	Memorial	Something like a statue, built to remind people of a famous person or thing that happened	Buckingham Palace	The home of the Queen in London	Interpretation	Explaining or showing your understanding of something
	Chronology	Putting things in the order they happened	Ceremony	Special event	Fact	Something true
			Successor	The person next in line to the throne	Change	To make something different
			Relative	Part of the same family	Consequence	The result of something, usually not a good thing

Year 3	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Prehistoric	Prehistoric people and things existed at a time before information was written down	Civilization	A group of people with their own language and way of life	Iron Age	When weapons and tools came to be made of iron
	Bronze Age	The first-time humans started to work with metal	Pyramid	A huge structure built as special tombs for important kings	Empire	A group of countries ruled over by a single leader or Emperor
	Iron Age	When weapons and tools came to be made of iron	Pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt	Celts	A name for the people living in Britain during the Iron Age – also called Britons

	Technology	The use of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, and for solving problems	Artefact	An object that gives us clues about its period of time in history	Invasion	When one country enters another country by force and takes control
	Hunter-gatherer	People who went from place-to-place hunting, fishing and harvesting wild food	Afterlife	Where ancient Egyptians believe they went after they died. It was considered another life	Resources	A supply of valuable materials such as metals or slaves
	Settlement	People living together in one place	Irrigation	How farmers bring water to their crops	Settlement	People living together in one place
	Artefact	Anything made by people in the past. Archaeologists use these to find out about how people lived	Shadoof	A simple device that people used to lift water from a lower level to a higher level for irrigation	Artefact	Anything made by people in the past. Archaeologists use these to find out about how people lived
	Romans	People who came from the Empire of ancient Rome	Hieroglyphics	A system of symbols and pictures used instead of letters	Romans	People who came from the Empire of ancient Rome
	Stone Age	The Stone Age lasted for thousands of years. It is split into the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) and Neolithic (New Stone Age)	Interpretation	An interpretation of something is an opinion about what it means	Rome	The capital of the Roman Empire. Today the capital of modern Italy
					Paganism	Religions where people believed in many different gods

Year 4	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Anglo-Saxons	The name given to the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, 3 tribes which from North Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands	Scandinavia	Part of Northern Europe, now the countries of Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland	Artefact	Anything made by people in the past. Archaeologists use these to find out about how people lived
	(Celtic) Britons	Inhabitants of the territories we now call England and Wales	Paganism	Religions where people believed in many different gods	Deity	A god or goddess
	Paganism	Religions where people believed in many different gods	Christianity	The religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ	Ancient	Very old – before ‘modern’
	Christianity	The religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ	Invade	To enter a country by force and to take control	Athens	The Capital city of Ancient Greece
	Chronicle	A historical written account of events arranged in order of time usually just the facts of what happened at the time	Raid	To enter a country or place, steal things and take them by force, and return to where you came from	Empire	A group of countries ruled by one single ruler or state
	Shire	An area of local government now called a county	Monastery	A place where religious people like monks live and work	Government	A group who rule a country
	The Venerable Bede	(673-735) A monk who became early medieval Europe's greatest scholar	Monk	A man who is a member of a group of religious men who live a simple life separate from everyone else, usually in a monastery	Democracy	When the people can choose who is in charge of the government
	Medieval	The period of European history between the end of the Roman Empire in 476 AD and about 1500 AD	Resources	A supply of valuable materials such as metals	Polytheism	Having many gods, not just one

Year 5	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Monarch	A king or queen who rules over a kingdom or empire	Industry	The work of turning raw materials into products in factories	Civilisation	A large group of people who share advanced ways of living and working
	Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family	Industrial Revolution	The change from making things by hand to using machines in factories. A time of scientific and technical modernisation	Empire	A group of countries ruled by one single ruler or state

	Pope	The Bishop of Rome as head of the Roman Catholic Church	Imperialism	Taking control of other countries to gain more power, wealth and influence	Kingdom	Made up of land from the same region or territory that is ruled by a king or queen
	Reformation	The change Henry VIII made from the Catholic Church to the Church of England so he could divorce his wife	Colonisation	When a country takes control of others in order to control the area and gain riches	Compare	To look at the similarities and differences between things
	Propaganda	Spreading and sharing information, ideas, opinions, or images, often only giving one part of an argument	Empire	A group of countries ruled by one single ruler or state	Colonisation	When a country takes control of others in order to control the area and gain riches
	Slavery	Being legally owned by someone else and forced to work for or obey them for no money or rights	Steam Power	Engines powered by heated water to create steam	Reparation	Paying or doing something good to make up for doing bad things
	Migration	The movement of a person or people from one country, locality, place of residence, to settle in another	Pollution	Putting harmful materials into the air or environment	Racism	When people are treated unfairly because of their skin colour or background
	Empire	A group of countries ruled by one single ruler or state	Sanitation	Keeping places free from dirt, infection, disease and sewerage		
	Interpretation	An interpretation of something is an opinion about what it means				

Year 6	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Dictator	A ruler with total power over a country, typically one who has obtained control by force. Hitler was a dictator	Locality	A neighbourhood or area	Memorial	A statue or structure placed to remind people of a significant person or event
	Evacuation	When people are removed from or leave a dangerous place	Significant	Something or someone of importance	Statue	A carved or cast figure of a significant person or thing
	Blitz	The German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom, in 1940 and 1941. Blitz means 'lightning'	Community	A group of people who live in the same area or who have something in common	Cause	Joining together to take action for a reason
	Allied	Countries whose armies work together. The Allies were; Britain, USA, Canada, India, France, Russia, Australia and others	District	An area of country, city or town	Industrial	A change in work due the invention of factories and machinery
	Axis	Enemy countries whose armies worked together; Germany, Italy, Japan and others	Parish	A small place with its own church	Primary Evidence	A first-hand experience of an event eg a diary entry or a photo
	Nazi	The Nazis were members of the right-wing political party, led by Adolf Hitler, which held power in Germany from 1933 to 1945	County	An area of a country that usually includes several towns and countryside	Secondary Evidence	A retold experience of an event eg, a textbook entry or a retold story
	Holocaust	The killing of six million Jewish men, women, and children and millions of others by Nazi Germany	Region	A large area of land which has a noticeable characteristic	Slavery	The practise or system of owning slaves
	Legacy	The long-lasting impact on people of events from the past	English Heritage	A charity that manages over 400 historic monuments, buildings and places. These include prehistoric sites, medieval castles, Roman forts and country houses	Trade	The action of buying, selling or swapping goods
			Blue Plaques	A permanent sign serving as a historical marker installed in a public place in the United Kingdom to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person, event, or former building on the site	Significance	Something or someone that is important

Cause and Consequence	Interpretation	Continuity and Change	Similarity and Difference	Significance		
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