



History

Subject Leader Report 2024-2025



Subject Leader: Megan Ritchie

Spring Term

The teaching of History within Masefield Primary School's curriculum plays a vital role in fostering an understanding of the world around us. It enables children to appreciate the past, understand the present, and make informed decisions about the future. Through their History units this term, children have focused on chronology, the development of historical vocabulary and the use of historical resources and artefacts; the key historical events and figures that have had an impact on the world we live in today.

At our primary school, we recognise the importance of a holistic approach to learning. History, as well as being taught explicitly, is integrated with other areas of the curriculum, ensuring that students develop a deeper, more interconnected understanding of the world around them. For example, we have linked History to different subjects in the curriculum, such as: In Art we have looked at different artists from different eras and in Science, we have studied different scientists from different periods throughout history. We provide students with opportunities to make connections, foster critical thinking, and apply knowledge in diverse ways.

EYFS (Reception and Nursery):

In EYFS, children have been introduced to fundamental historical concepts, and have continued to embed the vocabulary of "past" and "future." These terms help the children begin to understand the flow of time, starting with their personal experiences. Through simple activities, such as looking at their own life events and comparing them to the future, children gain an early understanding of historical time frames. This lays the foundation for more complex historical learning in later years.

KS1:

In **Year 1**, students have been learning about famous explorers who have made significant contributions to our understanding of the world and beyond. This topic has provided them with the opportunity to explore the lives and achievements of pioneers such as **Amelia Earhart**, **Neil Armstrong**, and **Sir Ranulph Fiennes**, helping to foster curiosity and an appreciation for exploration and adventure.

In **Year 2**, students have been learning about the **Great Fire of London**, a significant event in British history. By studying this topic, children have the opportunity to explore the chronology of historical events and how people lived in the past.

LKS2:

Year 3 focuses on **Samuel Crompton**, a local hero who invented the spinning mule, which revolutionised the textile industry during the Industrial Revolution. This unit highlights local history, giving students a deeper connection to the past by learning about a figure who had a significant impact on their own area. To enhance their learning, **Year 3** students visited **Bolton Museum** to explore Crompton's life and contributions. This visit allowed them to see primary sources and artefacts, offering a tangible connection to the past. In **Year 4**, the focus shifts to **Nelson Mandela**: a key figure in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The study of Mandela introduces students to more complex historical concepts such as social justice, equality, and human rights. By learning about



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Mandela's life, students understand the significance of his role in challenging oppression and promoting peace.

UKS2:

Building upon the lessons learned in Year 4, Year 5 students focus on the **Civil Rights Movement**. This unit deepens the exploration of social justice by examining the struggles for equality led by figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. The students learn about the significance of key events such as the **Bristol Bus Boycott**. Through discussions and research, Year 5 children explore the power of collective action and peaceful protest, understanding how the Civil Rights Movement changed the course of history.

In Year 6, students learn about the history of **space exploration**, a fascinating and expansive topic that engages their curiosity about the universe. The students explore the journey from the early sending of animals into space to the eventual achievement of sending humans, including the first male astronaut: Yuri Gagarin and the first female astronaut: Valentina Tereshkova. The history of space exploration helps children understand the significant technological advances that have shaped modern life.

The next steps for History are to:

- To continue to embed historical enquiry and continue to strengthen links between history and other subjects

