



Year 8 History

Aims:

- To develop secure chronological knowledge of British and global history from the Wars of the Roses to the Industrial Revolution, enabling students to understand how political, social, economic and religious change shaped the early modern and modern world.
- To develop understanding of key historical concepts such as cause and consequence, change and continuity, similarity and difference, significance and interpretation through the study of monarchy, empire, revolution and industrialisation.
- To build students' ability to reflect on and improve their learning, developing resilience, organisation, teamwork and independent working across increasingly complex historical enquiries.
- To inspire curiosity and critical thinking about the past, enabling students to evaluate evidence, form judgements and communicate historical understanding clearly in discussion and written work.

Content:

Year 8 begins by exploring the Wars of the Roses and the rise of the Tudors, examining the struggle for the English crown, key battles and figures, and how Henry VII established a new dynasty. Students then study the Tudor period, focusing on Henry VIII, the break with Rome and religious change under Edward, Mary and Elizabeth, considering how power and religion shaped England. They then move on to early modern Europe and the wider world, exploring the Renaissance, exploration of the Americas, global trade and key inventions such as the printing press, and how these changes shaped societies and ideas.

In the final term, students study the English Civil War and its consequences, including its causes, key events, the execution of Charles I and the rule of Cromwell, before exploring the Restoration and the development of parliamentary government.

Curriculum Map

Year	Term	Curriculum	Assessment
8	Term 1	Wars of the Roses & The Tudors Students explore the Wars of the Roses, studying key figures such as Henry VI, Margaret of Anjou and Warwick the Kingmaker, alongside major battles including St Albans, Towton and Tewkesbury. They then examine the rise of Richard III and the Princes in the Tower before moving on to Henry VIII and the break with Rome. The unit continues with the English Reformation under Edward, Mary and Elizabeth, including religious change, rebellions, persecution, and threats such as Mary Queen of Scots and the Spanish Armada.	Formal assessment Knowledge tests
	Term 2	Exploration, Empire & Slavery Students study European exploration and empire, focusing on motives such as trade and religion and the impact on Europe and colonised regions. They examine the conquest of the Americas and responses in Africa, India and Asia. The unit then explores the transatlantic slave trade, including West African kingdoms, triangular trade, the Middle Passage and plantation life. Students also study resistance, abolition movements, key figures and the long-term legacy of slavery.	Formal assessment Knowledge tests
	Term 3	The Stuarts, Civil War & Industrial Britain Students explore the Stuart period, including James I, the Gunpowder Plot and	End of Y8 assessment Knowledge tests

	religious tensions. They investigate the causes and consequences of the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I. The unit then covers the Commonwealth and Restoration, before moving on to the Industrial Revolution, studying urbanisation, inventions and key figures such as Stephenson, Watt and Brunel. Students also examine living and working conditions, industrial crime and reform, and the development of the suffrage movement.	
--	--	--

Assessment:

Students will be assessed through essay-based questions and source evaluation. There will be regular knowledge tests to assess subject knowledge in each unit. There will also be a final assessment at the end of Year 8, which will test a range of historical skills and understanding of curriculum content.

Extended Learning:

Students will review learning from lessons at home through effective and regular revision, as well as undertaking personalised research projects that help to develop and satisfy an intellectual curiosity in the subject as well furthering their knowledge and understanding of the period.

Connection to the JTFS Approach

Whole School Theme	How does History support this?
STRIPE	Students reflect on prior learning and develop independent enquiry skills through structured investigation of historical evidence. They engage in discussion and debate around key historical issues such as monarchy, rebellion and empire, while building confidence in communication and teamwork. Students are encouraged to think critically, question interpretations and manage their learning effectively across complex historical topics.
STEAM	Students explore technological and scientific developments across the period, including Tudor naval power, Renaissance innovation, and Industrial Revolution engineering. They study the impact of invention and industrialisation, alongside changes in medicine and public health. This helps students understand how science, technology and engineering shaped political, economic and social change.
Literacy	Students develop reading and writing skills through engaging with increasingly complex historical sources, including narratives, speeches and interpretations. They use scan and skim reading strategies and develop specialist vocabulary linked to monarchy, empire, religion and industrialisation. Students are supported to construct clear explanations, analytical arguments and extended written responses.
Numeracy	Chronology and timelines are used consistently to support understanding of change and continuity across early modern and modern Britain. Students interpret numerical and statistical data, including population change, trade figures and industrial growth, using this evidence to support historical arguments and develop skills in analysis, comparison and interpretation.
SMSC, British Values and Citizenship	Students explore moral, social and cultural issues across the period, including religious conflict, slavery, revolution and political change. They consider the impact of power, justice and inequality through studies of monarchy, empire and industrial society. Students also examine how different groups experienced change, from enslaved people to factory workers, developing an understanding of rights, responsibility and how historical events shape modern Britain.