

HISTORY CURRICULUM

INTENT

We make history exciting and meaningful for our students, going beyond just learning dates and events. We show them how history is full of interesting stories about people, how things have changed over time and how different cultures and societies have contributed to the world we live in today. By sparking their curiosity and teaching them how to think like detectives, we get them asking enquiry questions and looking for answers about the past. We give them a strong base of knowledge about both Britain's history and the history of other places around the world. This way, they can understand how the past connects to the present, see where they fit into the story and feel ready to be thoughtful, active members of society. We hope to light a fire for history in our students that keeps them wanting to learn more, not just while they're with us but throughout their lives.

IMPLEMENTATION

We start every history lesson connecting with what we've learned before. We call this "Know More, Remember More," where we ask questions that help students recall and build on their previous knowledge. Instead of just telling students what they're going to learn, we begin with an enquiry question that sparks their curiosity and sets the stage for an exploration. We make sure to use lots of important terms and ideas related to the topic, displaying them clearly so everyone can dive into the discussion. We also make sure that all our lessons are linked to one of core history concepts. Our lessons are rich with stories and evidence from the past, including both primary sources, like letters and artefacts, and secondary sources, like books and articles, to give a full picture of history. KS1 learn history within and beyond living memory and then in Key Stage 2, we've carefully structured our curriculum to follow a chronological order. This approach allows students to construct a clear timeline of history, understanding how events are interconnected and how societies have evolved over time. By experiencing history in sequence, students can better grasp the cause and effect of relationships between different periods and events, enhancing their ability to contextualise and synthesise information. We also give students the chance to handle real or replica artefacts, making history come alive in their hands. Plus, we link our lessons to British Values, showing how history shapes our understanding of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. An example of this is when learning about the Greeks we make sure that the children are introduced to Democracy which still leads us in Britain today. This approach helps students see the relevance of history to today's world and encourages them to think deeply about the lessons of the past.

IMPACT

Our students don't just learn facts; they become young historians who can think critically, ask insightful questions and draw connections between the past and the present. They develop a deep understanding of history's complexities and learn to appreciate the diversity of human experiences across time and place. This understanding helps them see their own place in the world more clearly and fosters a sense of responsibility towards others. By engaging with history in this way, our students become more informed, thoughtful and active citizens. They gain confidence in their ability to explore, understand and discuss historical events and ideas. Ultimately, our history curriculum empowers our students to voice their own thoughts and opinions, shaping their future with a keen awareness of the past's influence.

BIG OPPORTUNITIES

At Sinai, we provide students with exciting opportunities to dive into history and connect with the past in immersive ways. From virtual reality experiences that transport them to the Stone Age, Greek civilization, Viking era, and World War II, to visits to historic sites like Cunnersbury for Stone Age survival and Windsor Castle. We celebrate cultural diversity through Black History Month and pay tribute to history on Remembrance Day with assemblies and art projects. Our curriculum includes hands-on experiences like mummifying tomatoes in Year 4's Egypt Day and crawling through a tunnel to explore Tutankhamun's tomb. Ancient Greece comes to life with immersive days and mini-Olympics for Year 4 and 5 students. In Year 2, students meet Samuel Pepys during the Great Fire of London hook and Year 1 explores the Royal Family and the history of toys through workshops and artefact handling. Specialist historians lead workshops to immerse students in different historical contexts. At Sinai, history is an adventure filled with discovery and understanding.

KEY CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Key Concepts: Cause & consequence, Chronology, Similarities & differences, Significance, Interpretation, Society and culture, Change & continuity

In our history curriculum, we emphasises the development of both knowledge and skills to provide a well-rounded historical education. Our curriculum ensure children gain a comprehensive understanding of key historical concepts. This includes not only factual information about historical events, figures and time periods but also the ability to place these fact into their broader historical context. We place a strong emphasis on the development of historical skills, these skills encompass critical thinking, analysis, interpretation and the ability to evaluate historical sourcs. Our children learn to think like historians by examining evidence, drawing conclusions and forming well-reasoned arguments based on historical data.

ASSESSMENT

At Sinai, children complete a common assessment task at the end of each unit which include a range of tasks, from sorting pictures to essay style questions covering various historical knowledge and skills. Subject knowledge recall questions are also part of the assessment with differing formats for each year group. Knowledge organisers and assessment exemplifications support children and ensure consistent evaluation by teachers. Termly data on Arbor helps track individual progress and maintain curriculum alignment with educational goals.