

Foreword: Black History Month at the Ridgeway School

History months recognise the deserving minority whose history has been underplayed due to the cultural conditions which have developed over several hundred years.

In 1987 the British government chose to mark Black History Month in October, in an attempt to bridge the social stigma surrounding the endemic racism created from the post-colonial cultural chaos that was Britain in the 1960s and 1970s.

Every year we recognise the richness of Black History and understand that Black History is as important as any other; That Black History is British History and that the attitudes surrounding race is a product of a historical justification of appalling actions that spanned 100s of years during the transatlantic slave trade and British Empire.

But what is Black History? The "cradle of humanity" Egypt proves that Black History has been essential for the development of all history. Figures such as Mansa Musa 'the richest man in history' show us that Africa is a continent with a vast array of prestigious historical figures; and that although individuals such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther

King Jr. should not be discredited, they are only a few examples of Black stories that allow us to understand the world we live in today.

It is important for us as a school to not just teach Black History in October and over the past few years we have taken on board criticism which we rightfully received as a department about how well we represent the history of the student body at The Ridgeway School. We have worked hard to change what we teach in order to enrichen the curriculum, and always welcome feedback from you as students if you feel we are not representing your histories. We would always encourage you to 'Dig Deeper' into your past and find out how much we are all interlinked through the history that has been woven. History is not just about kings and queens, empires and wars. It is about individuals and societies and everyone has the right to feel proud of their history and proud of themselves.

*Mr J Bister*Subject Leader of History

Rosa Parks by Ahmed Hirsi (Year 7)

About Rosa

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was born on 4 February 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama to Leona (a teacher) and James (a carpenter) McCauley. In addition to African ancestry, one of Parks' greatgrandfathers was Scots-Irish and one of her great-grandmothers a part-Native American slave. She was small as a child and suffered poor health with chronic tonsillitis.

Parks' arrest and the bus boycott

The first four rows of seats on each Montgomery bus were reserved for whites. Buses had "coloured" sections for black people generally in the rear of the bus, although blacks composed more than 75% of the ridership. The sections were not fixed but were determined by placement of a movable sign. Black people could sit in the middle rows until the white section filled; if more whites needed seats, blacks were to move to seats in the rear. stand, or, if there was no room, leave the bus. Black people could not sit across the aisle in the same row as white people. The driver could move the "coloured" section sign, or remove it altogether. If white people were already sitting in the front, black people had to

board at the front to pay the fare, then disembark and re-enter through the rear door.



[1956 photograph of Rosa on a bus]

What happened?

One day Rosa was going home from work, when they stopped a white man came on the bus and the bus driver said that the coloured people should move back as there was no space on the white side of the bus. However Rosa did not move, so the bus driver came and moved the sign closer to the back of the bus, but still Rosa did not move so the bus driver called the police and they arrested Rosa.

After the boycott (not using) of buses, Rosa was released and the law of segregation was removed.

Death

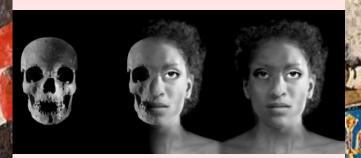
Parks died of natural causes on 24 October 2005 at the age of 92.

BBC NEWS

'The black British history you may not know about'

By Kameron Virk (BBC Reporter, 09-06-2020)

[While the focus of this magazine is to share student and staff generated material, parts of Virk's great <u>BBC News article</u> are worth quoting in some length.]



1. The Ivory Bangle Lady

Some might think the first Black people in Britain arrived from Britain's colonies - the countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia that Britain ruled over, in some cases for centuries - after the Second World War. But that's not true, says Lavinya from The Black Curriculum. "We know that Black people were in Britain since Roman times - and there's specific examples."

The Ivory Bangle Lady is the name given to remains discovered in York in 1901 which are now on display in the York Museum. Archaeological analysis reveals that although she was born in Roman Britain, she's likely to be of

North African descent. The remains have been dated to the second half of the 4th Century.

She was found with jet and elephant ivory bracelets, earrings, pendants, beads, a blue glass jug and a glass mirror. In other words, she wasn't poor. "It puts into question assumptions that Black people have never been aspirationally wealthy or had any kind of wealth," Lavinya says.

2. Henry VIII's black trumpeter

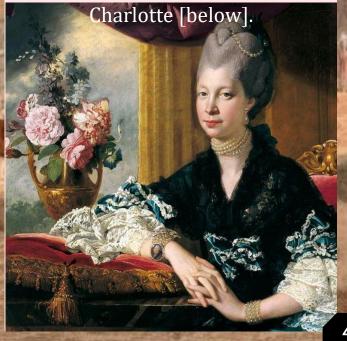
During the Tudor period there were hundreds of Black migrants living in England. For those of us a bit rusty on our Tudor dates, we're talking about the 1500s. John Blanke, an African trumpeter, was one of them. His face can be seen inscribed into a 60ft long roll depicting the prestigious Westminster Tournament of 1511 - an elaborate party which Henry VIII put on to celebrate the birth of a son. There's even a letter from John Blanke to Henry VIII asking for a pay rise. "He petitioned for 8p a day. I don't know what the conversion is today, but that showed he knew his worth,"

3. Britain's first Black Queen?

She was a princess from Germany who became a British Queen after marrying King George III - and many historians believe Queen Charlotte had African ancestry.

They married in 1761 and Charlotte was the mother of two British monarchs - George IV and William IV.

It's been argued that despite coming from Germany, Queen Charlotte was descended from a Black branch of the Portuguese royal family. King Afonso III of Portugal conquered the city of Faro from the Moors - Muslims from North Africa who lived in modern-day Spain and Portugal during the Middle Ages - in the 13th Century. Afonso was thought to have had three children with the city governor's daughter. One of their sons, ... had many descendants, including Queen



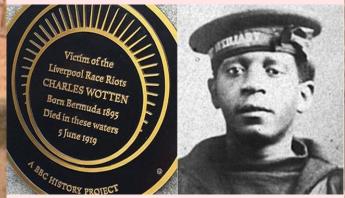
5. WW1 and the race riots that followed

When we talk about Caribbean migration into England we often think about the Windrush generation, who arrived in Britain between 1948 and 1971.

"But Black people were actually brought over from Jamaica to fight in World War One," says Lavinya. Her great-uncle came to England at the age of 17 to help the war effort, settling in London afterwards...

When soldiers returned to the UK after WW1 there was a jobs shortage and a lack of opportunities. "White people made the link that they were not getting jobs because of the Black people" - and violence towards Black communities followed.

They're known as the 1919 race riots in Glasgow, Liverpool, Cardiff and other seaports across Britain, during which three people were killed and hundreds injured.



But there were economic consequences too. Many black serviceman and workers found...

4

"colour bar" was introduced in many industries, with white workers, often backed by unions, refusing to work alongside black people. Lots of black men were sent back to the countries they had lived in before the war.

Poverty and a lack of jobs were a big factor in the riots, but according to researcher Jamie Baker, there was also a fear that black men and white women were starting families. "It fits into the hyper-sexualisation of black men. White men felt threatened because they felt that black men were taking their women,"

Lavinya says.

6. The Bristol bus boycott

After WW2 Black people from the Caribbean and Africa, and people from India, were asked to come to

Britain to help rebuild the country. They were put to work in the NHS and other public sector roles, like driving buses. But in Bristol the Omnibus Company, run by the council, refused to employ Black and Asian drivers, which eventually led to a boycott of buses across the whole city.

"But it wasn't as easy as that," Lavinya says. At the time it was not illegal to discriminate based on race - the first Race Relations Act was passed in 1965, but didn't include legislation about employment or housing until 1968. Paul Stephenson, Roy Hackett and Guy Bailey were the brains behind the boycott and Paul

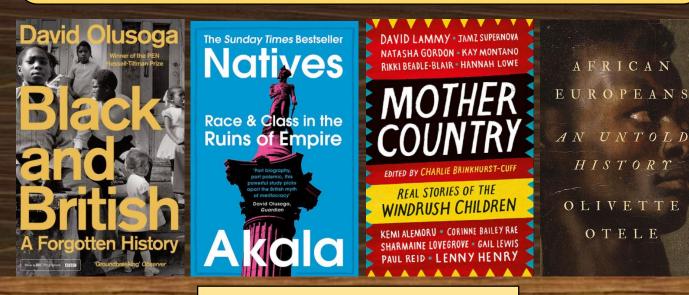


drew inspiration from the bus boycott in the US, started when Rosa Parks [see Ahmed's earlier article] refused to give up her seat for a white passenger when the bus was at capacity, for what they did in Bristol.

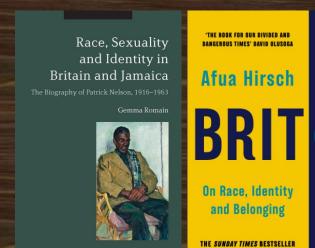
Hackett organised blockades and sit-down protests to prevent buses getting through the city centre...
On the same day Martin Luther King Jr delivered his famous "I have a dream" [1963] speech ... pressure had built enough ... that the Bristol Omnibus Company announced a change in policy. By mid-September Bristol had its first non-white bus conductor - Raghbir Singh, an Indian-born Sikh who'd lived in Bristol since 1959 - and further black and Asian crews followed.



'We have lots of resources to support Black History Month - come on up and check them out.' - Mrs Day (Learning Resource Centre)



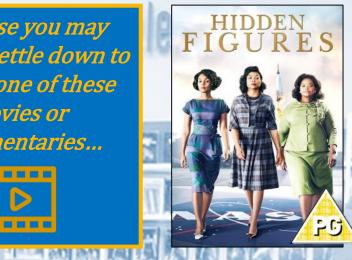
Some reading recommendations







Likewise you may want to settle down to try out one of these movies or documentaries...





BBC

1313131313



Black and British: A Forgotten History 1/4 First Encounters



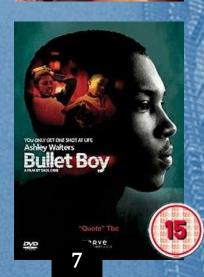


Documentary Film I Am Not Your Negro An Arena presentation















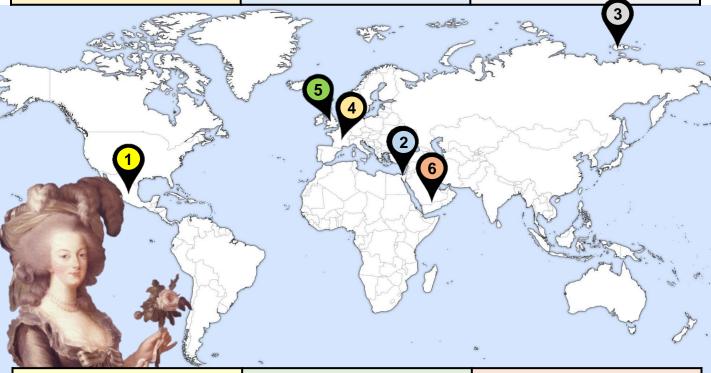
History in the News

(1.) Celebrating "The Greatness of Mexico", a new 1,525 item exhibition opens in Mexico City to mark 200 years since Mexico became free of Spain's Empire.

[Smithsonian, 04-10-2021]

(2.) Archaeologists find a rare 2,700 year old toilet in an ancient royal house in Jerusalem, Israel. While only the rich could've afforded it, it was "very uncomfortable". [City of David, 06-10-2021]

(3.) Archaeologists find the most northerly evidence of early human activity, seen in the discovery of 26,000 year old woolly mammoth bones with man-made cuts. [Live Science, 01-10-2021]



(4.) Historians use x-rays to reveal inked-out sections of Queen Marie Antoinette's letters, throwing new light on feelings for her "tender friend" - a Swedish Count. [Live Science, 01-10-2021]

(5.) 500,000 aerial photos and latest scanning used by Historic England to reveal the "hidden archaeological landscapes" of England in a new online digital map.

[*BBC*, 08-10-2021] IN LONG BUREAU SANTON CONTRACTOR (6.) The largest ever study of Arabian **DNA**, **strengthens** view that 90,000 years ago humans spread from Africa to Europe and Asia through the Arabian peninsular. [Live Science, 12-10-2021]

pourtant necesaire que propos et nea conduite d'après ce qui el pupe, l'est ce que je charge

A lidar scan reveals layout of WWI camp at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire →



Berry Pomeroy Castle! by Nicola Mytton (Year 10)



Originally thought to be of Norman origin, it was built-up in the late 15th century by the Pomeroy family.

They planned on making it a great house to rival Audley End or Longleat but they ended up abandoning it, and by the 1700s it was nothing more than an abandoned shell. The castle was ravaged during the English Civil War (Oliver Cromwell's Roundheads Vs the Cavaliers who fought for royalty) and was further damaged by fire in the early 18th century. After this no one has wanted to live their due to its dark history. It is now reported to be one of the most haunted buildings in the United Kingdom.

One of the ghosts is known as the White Lady. She haunts the dungeons, and rises from St.
Margaret's Tower to the castle ramparts. Those who report seeing this figure associate it with

feelings of depression, fear and malevolence. She has been identified as the ghost of Lady Margaret Pomeroy. Eleanor was insanely jealous of her younger and prettier sister Margaret, and is said to have incarcerated her because of a love rivalry, after Lord Pomeroy left to go on a crusade and left Eleanor in charge.

Margaret was imprisoned in the castle dungeons for nearly two decades, before Eleanor allowed her a slow and painful death through starvation.

A blue light has been seen on a particular day every year in St Margaret's Tower, usually during the evening. The blue light has been witnessed by many people in the past including Peter Underwood and his colleagues during an overnight investigation some years ago.

A second ghost is the Blue Lady, she has been reported there as far back as the 18th century. Dressed in a long blue cape and hood it has been claimed that she tries to lure men to their death by seeking help in unsafe areas of the castle.

Said to be the spirit of the...

daughter of an early Norman lord, who after an incestuous relationship with her father, gave birth to a child. Shortly after its birth, her father strangled the baby in one of the upper rooms of the tower. In another version of the story it is said that she hated the child so much that she strangled it herself. It is said that because she smothered her child, her troubled spirit can find no rest, and she is often seen wringing her hands in anguish. At various times, the cries of the murdered infant can be heard throughout the castle. Sir Walter Farguhar was a witness to the Blue Lady in the late 18th century. He was a prominent doctor of the time and was in the castle attending to the wife of a steward who had fallen ill. He saw "a stunning young woman, who was wringing her hands in obvious distress," and he watched the figure move up a stairway and into a room upstairs.



[A possible photo of the blue lady]

With no prior knowledge of the legends of the Blue Lady he asked the steward who the figure was. Showing signs of considerable distress, the steward explained that the appearance of the figure was an omen of death. He thought that this meant that his wife would die. The doctor dismissed the idea, and confirmed that the woman was recovering well. But in fact the steward was rightly concerned, his wife suddenly died later that day.

The Castle's Origin:

When the Pomeroy family began to build-up the castle in the late 15th century, they had already owned the land for over 400 years. It had originally been granted by William the Conqueror to Ralf de Pomaria, a Norman knight from La Pommeraya near Falaise, there is no earlier record of a fortress built on the land. The Pomeroys previously occupied an unfortified manor house by the village church, which was still in full use in 1496. The Pomeroys' motive for building the castle was all but certainly the disturbed state of Devon, then the most lawless area of southern England. Local feuds, escalating from 1455 into the conflict later known as the 'Wars of the Roses', involved the Pomeroys on the 'Yorkist' side. The strength of Berry Pomeroy's up-to-date fortifications leaves no doubt that

...it was made for serious defence.

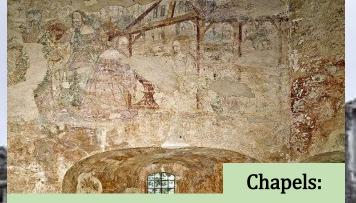
Medieval defences:

The earliest remains of the defences that we can see is a dry moat that dates back to the late 15th century. The original defences along the south-east of the site and include a Gate house, corner tower (St Margret's tower) and connecting curtain wall, which continues for a short while along the south-west and north-east side (where there is the remains of another corner tower). The defences though incomplete, include nine purpose-build cannon ports, three of them multiple and at least 10 plain 'loops' for handguns. The six gun ports in the ground floor of the gatehouse towers are notable for their wide internal splays for maximum guntraverse, and their carefully positioning to cover the greatest possible fields of fire.



[Above: courtyard]

[Right: Inside tower]



The photos above show the only painting in the chapel in the top of the gate house. The painting, which depicts the three kings in Bethlehem, and clearly served as the ornamental screen for an alter. This corner of the chamber may thus have housed a private family oratory; of less probably the whole chamber was the castle chapel.

In 1978, a worker at Berry Pomeroy Castle caught a glimpse of a face under a thick growth of moss and ivy. Specialists were quickly called in to uncover the unique and remarkable wall painting which dated to about 1490-1500.

The painting contains one of the earliest depictions in England of a black Wise Man It displays the influence of the artistic style of Antwerp, and is thought likely to have been produced by an English imitator of the style, using a highly developed range of pigments.

The Antwerp style has also been traced in the figures on the painted screen in Berry Pomeroy church, which was rebuilt by Sir Richard Pomerov before 1496.

History Department News



Who's Who?

(right to left)
Mr Adair, Miss
Stevens, Mr
Voisey, Mr Bister
(subject leader) &
Mr Brace.

In addition we also have Miss Buttery (KS5), and joining us this year we have Miss Raeburn and Miss Grindey.

Year 6 Open Evening

On 16 September 2021, along with our Geography and R.E. colleagues, Humanities took over Green Square to provide prospective Year 6 students and their parents a taste of History and Humanities at the Ridgeway.

As this photograph captured, History went back to V-Day 1945 for the occasion.

History Extra-Curricular

(See the noticeboard outside G07 for updates).

- Year 11 GCSE Intervention (Tuesday A + Thursday B)
- Ancient History & Latin Club (Coming Soon)



History VLE Pages

Remember (like other subjects) History's VLE is back to support learning & revision in 2021/22!

It contains lesson, wider learning and revision resources and can be accessed via the 'Virtual Learning' page of the School website (or click HERE).

What's on in Wiltshire this Half Term?





STEAM GWR Museum, Swindon

Open 10:00-17:00 most days (£)

https://www.steam-

museum.org.uk/event/october-half-term/



While Lydiard Park is free to visit, 11:00-16:00 Thurs. - Sat. Lydiard House Museum opens too (£): https://www.lydiardpark.org.uk/

SWINDON & CRICKLADE RAILWAY Heritage railway connecting Taw Valley, Blunsdon, and Hayes Knoll (£).

Events: https://swindon-cricklade-

railway.org/event-list/

Volunteering: https://swindon-cricklade-

<u>railway.org/volunteer/</u>



Wonderful museum, telling story of Wiltshire and hosting great archaeological collections. Open 10:00-17:00 most days (-18yrs free) https://www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/whats-on/





Both have sites of interest nearby (£/ Free) **English Heritage** (e.g. Silbury Hill, Kennet Barrow, Stonehenge, Old Sarum):

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/

National Trust (e.g. Avebury Stones, Lacock House): https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/

WEBSITE LINKS:

Ridgeway History Hub: https://www.ridgewayschool.com/learning-and-

education/learning-resource-centre/ridgeway-history-hub

Wroughton History Group: http://www.wroughtonhistorygroup.co.uk/

13



Creativity & Fun...

In This Corner of the World by Fumiyo Kōno (2017)

Reviewed by: Gabryel McFadden (Year 13)

War books are all about: the frontlines; the intrigue of conflict; the politics; the spies; the dogfights; the parachute regiments. Right? Well, not always. As is shown by Fumiyo Kōno's この世界の片隅に - In This Corner of the World - war doesn't just affect those on and behind the frontlines.

Set on the outskirts of Kure, a place near Hiroshima and well known for being built around the Kure Naval Base - where the IJN Yamato was built. In This Corner of the World follows the life of the young 18-year old and newlywed Suzu Urano, a girl with a knack for art, who has moved to Kure with her husband - a judicial officer at the Kure Military Court. The series starts in the early 1930s - a time when Japan was safely expanding her territory into China (having taken Manchuria in 1931, naming it 'Manshū' - Manchukuo). Japan was still a distant ally of Britain and a trading partner of America (even as far as being in the London Naval Treaty, which limited the navies of many

London Naval Treaty, which limited the navies of many countries around the world). The series goes through the interwar period and into the Second World

War, ending in January 1946. The manga follows Urano's struggles and experiences as war came and progressed, all while she attempted to continue on with life and create her art, even as the war threatens to take away everything. From the influx of wounded to the build-up of naval defences; from the fire bombing of Kure and indirect bombing on the Kure Naval Base, Urano lives through this all - even through the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.



The key themes of *In This Corner* of the World are about dealing with life in your darkest days, struggling through troubles and persevering against the odds.

Whether those odds are prejudicial problems or the literal loss from war, Urano had to deal with and persevere through these problems - made worse by living in one of the most important civilian centres for the Japanese war machine.

The series shows a different story from what most are used to with stories set in wars. First and foremost, it is a story set on the homefront, with civilians as characters rather than soldiers, in a semi-serious manner with true realism. Atop this, it shows the war from the view of the enemy a civilian in Imperial Japan - and shows a country different from our own, where militarism helps more to care for the family than industry. Likewise, the society is vastly different from the society of the same country now. The series is also very limited in its coverage, showing only what Urano and her friends and family would know, rather than the full pacific front.

As mentioned before, the story is realistic - it is also a fictional story, Urano was never an actual person, but Fumiyo Kōno creates a

...character that fits into the real setting of wartime Japan and tells the story as it is, making the world all the more believable.

Kōno, when creating the manga, chose to use a tone in the story that is a mix of seriousness and humorousness - a tone that is often seen from people in such times - which has given it a style that is often attributed to folktales. This chosen style and tone helps greatly to tell the story and show off the real world and realistic people as they should and would be in the time she (Fumiyo Kōno) is covering. The manga was a recommended work in the 2008 Japan Media Arts Festival and won the Excellence Prize at the same festival the following year.

If you wish to find a copy, there are multiple stores that provide all three volumes online and in English, both physical copies and electronic copies - Seven Seas Entertainment (the publishers of the English version) are the best source to find it. Alternatively, part of the manga has been converted into an animated film available to watch on Netflix and Amazon Prime, with plans for another movie to cover the rest of the manga (after all, while the story is focused on the life of Urano, it does also partially cover the lives of her friends too).

North African Poached Eggs

By Piotr Maciejewski (Year 9)



Ingredients:

- ✓ Olive oil
- ✓ Onions
- ✓ Red & Green Bell Peppers
- ✓ Garlic
- ✓ Chilli
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Tomatoes
- ✓ Cumin Seeds
- ✓ Salt & Pepper
- ✓ Spring Onions
- ✓ Coriander

Method:

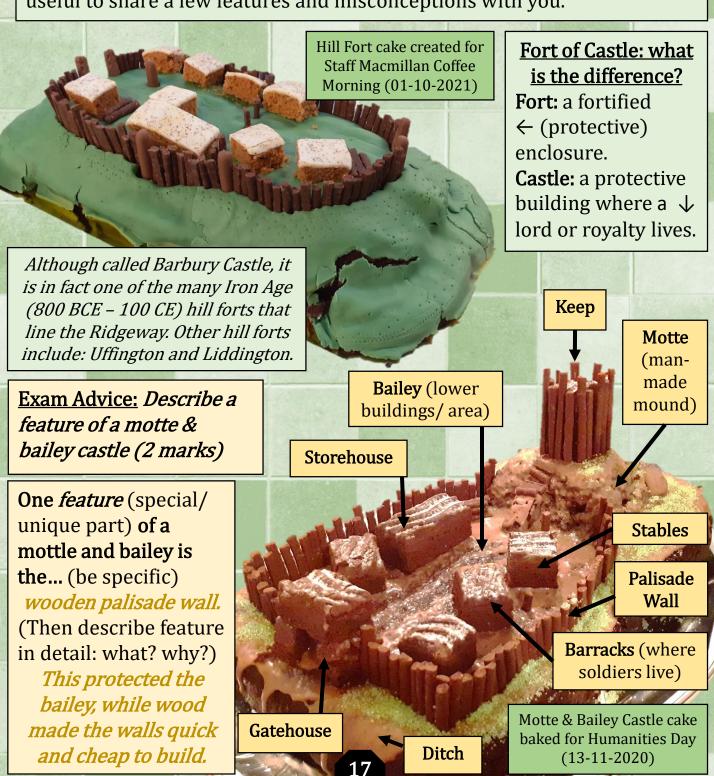
- 1. Add olive oil to a hot pan and fry finely chopped onions and red and green peppers.
- 2. Then chop garlic and chilli and cook until softened. Chillies work brilliantly with eggs giving the dish a lovely hot kick.
- 3. Next add fresh chopped tomatoes then cumin seeds and fry until the seeds are fragrant and the tomatoes are lovely and soft.
- 4. Season.
- 5. Next make wells in your spicy sauce and crack in your 4 eggs.
- Then cover and cook on a low heat for five minutes so the whites are set and the yolks are still lovely and runny.
- 7. To finish, slice spring onions and coriander and simply sprinkle over.

Fresh. Spicy and deliciously different. Easy North African Eggs ready in under 20 minutes and this worth getting up late for.

Brace 'Bakes' Cake Castles

By Mr Brace (History Teacher)

While I am not known for my culinary skills (ask my colleagues in Humanities), since joining the Ridgeway family my baking has developed a very particular pattern... Since Year 7 will be investigating this topic (castles, not my baking) in more detail next term, I thought it might be useful to share a few features and misconceptions with you.



Inspired to do some more cooking/baking of your own this Half Term?



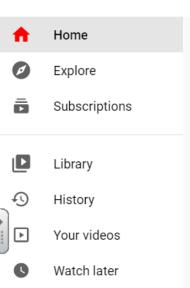
You might enjoy: **Ancient Recipes with Sohla** El-Waylly (History Channel)

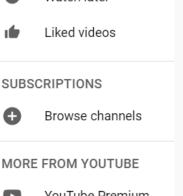
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL ob1mZcVWOah2EMcifmpiZWPYofk4Hr0q

YouTube

History VouTube recommendations

Selected by Theo Mullen (Year 9)





MORE FROM YOUTUBE	
	YouTube Premium
	Movies & shows
90	Gaming
((e))	Live



Simple History:

https://www.youtube.com/channel /UC510QYlOlKNyhy zdQxnGYw



Oversimplified:

https://www.youtube.com/c/OverSimplified



History Matters:

https://www.youtube.com/c/TenMinuteHistory



History Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/user/his torychannel



Armchair Historian:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeUJFQ0D9qs6aVNyUt9fkeQ



History Hub [Royal Holloway Uni.]:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1k4S7pliX3Ke-051ftTP1g



Alternative History Hub:

https://www.youtube.com/user/Alt ernateHistoryHub

Albert Einstein (1953 photograph).

History Jokes by Kenan Noori (Year 8)

Why were the Dark Ages so dark?

Because there were lots of knights.

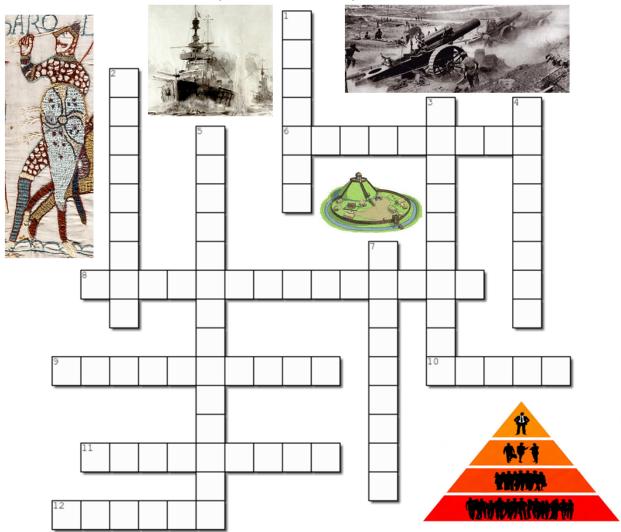
How did Vikings message each other? *Through Norse code.*



Name:

History Now: Crossword Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

<u>Across</u>

- 6. Big guns that fire shells long distances
- **8.** Quick and cheap castle built by the Normans from 1066
- Large farm that grows cash crops in the Americas
- **10.** If being asked to work-out or suggest something from a detail
- 11. The richest person in all human history
- **12.** When one country takes over and controls other countries

Down

- 1916 naval battle between Britain and Germany in the North Sea
- 2. The surname of the King killed in battle at Hastings in 1066
- 3. Ruler of England 1558-1603
- Buboes, fever and spasms were all of the Black Death
- **5.** The journey from Africa to the Americas as part of triangular trade
- **7.** A system of organising people, based on their power and position

Would you like to write an article? share some family history or an experience? Create a historical literary/ artistic/ musical work?

Or just want to get involved?

Talk to, or e-mail your History Teacher and you might find it featured in the next edition. ☺

Published by the History Department, Ridgeway School & Sixth Form (October 2021)

