



Gordon's School History Department

Key Stage 3 - Curriculum Map

Key concepts/ skills:

Causation and consequence;
significance; source analysis, continuity
and change; similarity and difference;
interpretation; evidential thinking; written
communication.

What were the causes and consequences of British imperial expansion?

You will study how the British Empire grew and the impact it had upon India and the African continent. You will focus on colonisers, such as Cecil Rhodes, resistance to Empire and complete an independently researched "Empire Project".

How did the Industrial Revolution change society and people's lives?

You will study how Britain became the dominant global economy, working conditions in the factories (including child labour), the impact of the revolution in transport and developments in public health during the nineteenth century.

Why did the United States fight a civil war over slavery and unity?

You will focus upon how the issue of slavery divided America, how the civil war unfolded, the role of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment and the period of "Reconstruction" after the American Civil War.

How did the transatlantic slave trade shape economies, societies, and resistance movements?

You will study West African kingdoms before the introduction of the transatlantic slave trade. You will then focus on the development of the slave trade, resistance to slavery and the eventual abolition of both the slave trade and slavery.

Who were the significant individuals of the twentieth century?

You will study 3-4 political leaders from the twentieth century, which might include Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini and Fidel Castro. You will use primary sources and group-based research to put together a detailed presentation which you will give to the class.

What was the Holocaust?

You will study the development of anti-Semitism within Germany and the way Jews and other minority groups were persecuted by the Nazi regime under Adolf Hitler. You will focus on Jews' experiences in the concentration camps and, in particular, Auschwitz.

What was the most significant event of the Second World War?

You will consider whether the evacuation of Dunkirk in June 1940 was a triumph or disaster for Britain. You will also focus on the significance of the Battle of Britain, Hitler's invasion of Russia and the D-Day Landings. You will conclude by examining whether the dropping of the two atom bombs on Japan in 1945 was justified.

What were the causes of the Second World War?

You will study how Hitler broke the Treaty of Versailles throughout the 1930s and whether the policy of appeasement was a mistake. You will focus on the arguments of Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill.

Why was the First World War significant?

You will explore the causes of the First World War, the development of trench warfare and fighting on the Western Front, the Battle of the Somme and whether Douglas Haig deserves his negative historical reputation as "the butcher of the Somme". You will conclude by examining whether the Treaty of Versailles was a mistake.

Did women "win" the right to vote in 1918?

You will consider the roles played by the Suffragist and Suffragette movements in campaigning for the extension of the vote to women. You will also explore how women's lives were affected by the First World War and how far the extension of the vote in 1918 can be seen as a "reward" for women's contribution to the war effort.

Year 9

How did the Civil Rights Movement challenge inequality and inspire change?

You will focus on segregation in America and the development of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. You will explore the roles played by Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, before reaching a judgement about how much life improved for African Americans.

Does Elizabeth I deserve to be seen as a great monarch?

You will explore how Elizabeth navigated the problems of religion, threats to the throne from Mary, Queen of Scots, poverty and deteriorating relations with Spain. You will use this information to reach an informed judgement about how great a monarch Elizabeth was.

Year 8

How did the struggle between monarchy and Parliament shape modern democracy?

You will study the clash between Charles I and Parliament, which led to the English Civil Wars of the 1640s. You will then examine the 11 years of republic under Oliver

What was the impact of the Reformation?

You will learn what the Reformation was and how it led to the split between the Catholic and Protestant Church. You will explore how religious tension characterised the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I, before focusing on "forgotten lives" of the Tudor Period.

Year 7

How was England shaped before 1066?

You will focus on the ways the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings have shaped England.

Why was 1066 a year of crisis?

You will learn about how the death of Edward the Confessor in 1066 started a race for the throne of England. You will study the Battle of Hastings and why the Normans won.

How did the Norman Conquest change England?

You will study the Norman introduction of the feudal system, changes to the Church and the impact of castles upon England.

How important were the issues of toleration and power during the Middle Ages?

You will learn about the Crusades, including the roles of Richard I "the Lionheart" and Saladin. You will also study the development of anti-Semitism and the part played by this in the Black Death of 1348. The theme of power struggles will explore the fractious relationships between Thomas Becket and Henry II, King John and the barons, and King Richard II and the peasants.

