

## What is History?

History is one of three humanities subjects, the other two being Geography and Religious Education.

### Foundation Stage:

The teaching of History fits in to the curriculum area of 'Understanding the world'. The curriculum covers both the children's personal history and that of others. Children are taught through books, artefacts and photographs. They learn about their community and practice skills of observation and enquiry.

### Key Stage 1:

History is often taught through cross-curricular activities linked to topics. Children are given opportunities to learn in a hands-on, interactive manner which often involves the use of artefacts. Special days and off-site visits help to engage children in their learning.

## The Importance of History

Teaching History ensures that children gain an understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. History helps pupils understand the lives of other people and how events from the past have shaped the present day.

It also allows children to build a chronological framework, using common words and phrases related to the passing of time. An understanding of the past allows children to appreciate the diversity of human experience and understand more about themselves as individuals. History provides children with a number of valuable skills, such as asking questions, thinking critically, weighing evidence and developing perspective.



A topic box from Bristol Museum provides Reception classes with hands-on experiences of what life was like in the past.

## The History Curriculum

A brief overview of the main themes covered at Summerhill Infant School.

### Reception:

- Exploring their own personal history and the history of the local area
- Exploring historical times and figures through stories

### Year 1:

- Exploring a timeline of their lives
- Exploring the lives of significant people linked to their Pirates topic and Castles topic.

### Year 2:

- Learning about Victorian Bristol and the life of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
- Experiencing a day as a Victorian school child
- Exploring space and the lives of individuals such as Mae Jemison and Neil Armstrong.
- Comparing famous explorers including Ibn Battuta and Christopher Columbus.

## How can you help?

History at Summerhill Infant School is a very exciting topic that can be explored in the local area and even in your own home!

Here are some ways in which you can support your child when learning about History in a real life, hands on context:

- Talk to grandparents, compare how much life has changed.
- Borrow books from the library that explore life in the past.
- When out and about talk about the different houses and buildings around you and how they have changed over time.
- Visit the free museums in Bristol.



Children experiencing what life was like on the SS Great Britain.



Feel free to contact the following person for any additional information:

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## Summerhill Infant School



# History



This leaflet aims to give you a brief overview of History at Summerhill Infant School