



Aiskew, Leeming Bar
Church of England Primary School

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KS2 Year A

2022 2023

History Vocabulary - Changes in Britain from the Stone Age, to the Iron Age

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
AD		Anno Domini "in the year of the Lord".	
agriculture		farming	
archaeology		The study of history through excavation and artefacts.	
artefact		Object made by humans.	
BCE		Before Common Era	
BC		Before Christ	
bronze		A metal made of copper and tin.	
CE		Common Era	
Celts		The name that's been given to the tribes who lived in Britain during the Iron Age. They also lived in mainland Europe.	
crop		A plant that is frown by farmers on purpose e.g. wheat, barley and vegetables.	
domesticated		When an animal has been bred to behave in a way that benefits humans e.g. horses have been domesticated so that human can ride them.	
flint		Stone used in Stone Age for blades, knives and spears.	
forage		To search for food to eat.	
glacial period		A period of time when the climate is very cold and the land is covered in glaciers.	
harvest		Where farmers gather the crops they've grown.	
Homo Sapiens		The humans species of today	
hunter-gatherer		People who live by hunting, fishing, and harvesting wild food. They don't farm.	
hillfort		An area of settlement build on high ground and enclosed within a wall.	
interglacial period		A period of time between glacial periods when the ice melts and weather becomes warmer.	
loom		A structure to weave material on.	
Mesolithic		The period of time in Britain which started around 11,500 years ago at the end of the last glacial period. It ended around 6,500 years ago when people started farming. The Mesolithic was part of the Stone Age.	
Neolithic		The period of time in Britain which started around 6,500 when people started farming. It ended around 4,500 years ago when people started using metals for tools and weapons. The Neolithic was part of the Stone Age.	
nomads		People that travel and have no permanent home. Tribal people who live in a group for protection.	
Palaeolithic		The Palaeolithic Age is the name we give to the period which extends from the earliest known use of stone tools by hominins (human-like creatures) around 3.3 million years ago, down to roughly around 11,650 years ago. Palaeolithic means 'Old Stone Age'.	
prehistory		The time before people started writing. In Britain, prehistory ended when the Romans arrive about 2,000 years ago.	
primary source		Artefact or information that was created at the time of study	



secondary source		A source that isn't from the time being studied e.g. a text book or website.	
ritual		An act or a number of acts performed as part of a ceremony.	
roundhouse		A circular house with a conical thatched roof built from the Bronze Age to Iron Age	
settlement		A place where people live. Settlements can be small or large. Some settlements are permanent (people live in them all the time) and some are temporary (people live in them some of the time).	
sickle		A hand-held tool used to harvest crops.	
society		People living together in a more or less ordered community.	
Stone Age		The period of time in Britain when people used stone tools. It ended around 4,500 years ago when people started using metals for tools and weapons. The Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic were part of the Stone Age.	
Summer solstice		The longest day of the year. In Britain, it's near the 21 st June.	
Winter solstice		The shortest day of the year. In Britain, it's the 21 st December.	

History Vocabulary – Earliest Civilisations with a key focus on Ancient Egypt

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
afterlife		A life that some people believe begins when you die, for example a life in heaven or as another person or animal.	
ancient		Belonging to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Empire (AD 410).	
archaeologist		Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains.	
artefacts		An object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like.	
Ancient Sumer		An ancient civilisation which was located in modern day Iraq from 5000 BC to 2330 BC.	
Book of the Dead		It is an ancient Egyptian funerary text consisting of a number of magic spells intended to assist a dead person's journey through the underworld, and into the afterlife.	
civilisation		A particular society which existed at a particular time and place.	
concurrently		Being around at the same time.	
circa		Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.	
deities		a god or goddess	
Egyptologist		Someone who studies of the archaeology and language of ancient Egypt.	
embalmer		Someone who prepares dead bodies for burial.	
excavation		To dig in the ground to discover old buildings or objects that have been buried for a long time.	
fertile		Land which is rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants.	
hierarchy		A system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society.	
hieroglyphs		A picture used as a form of writing instead of letters.	
Indus Valley		An ancient civilisation around the Indus River from 3300 BC to 1500 BC which today is part of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.	



irrigation			A system of canals or channels dug by the Egyptians to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would naturally reach.	
mummification			The process in which the flesh and skin of a corpse (dead body) can be preserved.	
Nile delta			The Nile Delta is located in Lower Egypt where the Nile River spreads out and drains into the Mediterranean Sea. ^[1] It is one of the world's largest river deltas and it covers 240 km (150 mi) of Mediterranean coastline and is a rich agricultural region.	
papyrus			A material like paper used by ancient people to write on.	
pharaoh			a ruler of ancient Egypt	
polytheist			Belief in, or worship of, multiple gods.	
pyramid			A building with triangular sides built as an Egyptian tomb (a place to bury the dead).	
sarcophagus			a stone coffin	
settle/settlement			People who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement.	
Shang Dynasty			An ancient civilisation which was located in modern day China from 1600 BC to 1046 BC.	
society			People in general, thought of as a large organised group.	
tomb			A large grave which is above ground with a sculpture or decoration on it.	



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KS2 Year B

2023 2024

History Vocabulary - The Romans

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
archaeology		Archaeology is the study of things that people made, used, and left behind. The goal of archaeology is to understand what people of the past were like and how they lived.	
artefacts		An object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest. They often give clues to the past.	
barbarian		The word used by Romans when referring to all foreigners not part of the empire. Later, this came to refer to uncivilised, violent, mostly Germanic and Asian tribes that attacked the empire.	
Boudicca		A Queen who led the Iceni Tribe - she fought back against the Roman conquest.	
Britannia		The Roman province of Britain, today's England; first conquered by the emperor Claudius in 43 A.D. and abandoned in 410 A.D.	
Caesar		A Latin word meaning "hairy one" that was the family name of Julius Caesar. The title Caesar was adopted by emperors from Augustus in 27 B.C., up until Hadrian in 117 A.D.	
Caledonia		Scotland - the people were known as Caledonians.	
caldarium		the hot room of Roman baths with the hottest bathing pools	
chariot		A two or four-wheeled cart pulled by horses that carried people along. This would have been used for both military purposes and in entertainment for racing.	
civilised		A word taken from the Roman word "civitas" meaning the citizens of Rome.	
centurion		An army officer in charge of a century. Century: a unit of the Roman army made up of 60-80 men.	
colosseum		A large amphitheatre where gladiator contests were held.	
concurrent		Happening at the same time.	
culture		Shared behaviour such as diet, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion, which are shared by a group of people or society	
decline		a decrease in power, wealth, size and importance	
defeated		To win a victory over someone.	
emperor		A supreme ruler of the Roman Empire.	
empire		A group of nations or people who are ruled over by an Emperor, Empress or powerful government. This usually extends beyond a single kingdom.	
forum		A large, open square. The Roman Forum and the Imperial Forum were the locations of ancient Rome's main buildings of government, greatest monuments and most important temples.	
frigidarium		The cold room of Roman baths that contained the cold pools.	
gladiator		An armed man who fought to the death with other gladiators and with animals. Most gladiators were slaves or criminals.	
Hadrian		Emperor who orders the building of a wall between Scotland and Roman Britain	

Hadrian's Wall		A long wall built by the Romans across the north of England. It was to keep out the Scots. It is now one of Britain's most famous tourist attractions.	
hypocaust		An underfloor heating chamber through which hot air from the furnace passed to warm a Roman building.	
Iceni		The Iceni were a tribe who lived approximately where East Anglia is now.	
invasion		One country attacking another to take it over.	
Latin		The language of the ancient Romans that gave rise to the French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian languages and contributed many words to the English language.	
legion		The largest division of the Roman army consisting of 4000-6000 men.	
Julius Caesar		Roman ruler who first invaded Britain in 55 BC and 54 BC but went away again.	
legionary		Roman soldier who belonged to a legion, which contained between 3000 to 6000 soldiers.	
Londinium		This was the Roman name for London.	
occupation		The act of taking over a piece of land that doesn't belong to you.	
occupy		To march aggressively into another country and take over.	
outnumber		To be larger in number than another.	
Picts		A group of Scottish people known to the Romans as the 'painted ones' in Latin.	
Prasutagus		King of the Iceni Tribe	
rebellion		A group of people who disagree with the rulers and fight against them.	
republic		A form of government in which the people elect, or choose, their leaders.	
revolt		Take violent action against an established government or ruler; rebel.	
settlement		A place where people come to live or the process of settling in such a place.	
source		Where historical information originally comes from.	
Tacitus		Roman historian who writes an account of the Iceni revolt.	
Testudo		A tight and effective military formation based on the tortoise shell that protected soldiers from arrows and incoming objects.	
tribe		A social collection of people linked by a common culture and a ruler.	



History Vocabulary - Ancient Greece

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
Acropolis		Fortified city core located on a rocky outcrop above Athens.	
agora		A place where people meet to make decisions and vote.	
amphitheatre		An open-air theatre.	
ancient		Over 1,000 years old.	
archaeology		Archaeology is the study of things that people made, used, and left behind. The goal of archaeology is to understand what people of the past were like and how they lived.	
Archaic Period		From 800BC to 480 BC. During this time, the city-states of Athens and Sparta began to form.	
architecture		The art or practise of designing and constructing buildings.	
artefacts		An object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest. They often give clues to the past.	
Athens		A city-state in Ancient Greece which produced many writers and artists whose work has survived to this day. Currently the capital city of Greece.	
Athenians		Citizens of the city-state of Athens.	
assembly		The regular opportunity for all male citizens of Athens to speak their minds and exercise their votes regarding the government of their city.	
citadel		A strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety.	
citizen		A person who lives in and has the rights given by a town or city.	
city state		A city that had its own government and rules the area around it e.g. Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Delphi & Thebes (Greek = Polis).	
civilisation		A human society with its own social organisation and culture.	
Classical period		480 BC - 323 BC. During this time Athens was ruled by a democracy. A period of great architecture, trade, theatre, literature and philosophy. Athens and Sparta fought the Peloponnesian War. It ended with the rise of Alexander the Great.	
culture		Activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation.	
deity		A god or goddess.	
democracy		From the Greek word demos - people and Kratos - rule. A fair system of government where eligible adults vote for an elected government.	



empire		A number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country.	
fertile		Ground, rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants for farming.	
Hellas		What the Greek people call their country.	
Hellenistic Period		323 BC - 16 BC when Alexander the Great came to power. Ended when the Roman Empire conquered Greece.	
Hoplite		Citizen-soldiers of Ancient Greek city states who were primarily armed with spears and shields.	
invasion		To try to take over a place by force.	
legacy		Something that exists as a direct result of a period of history that continues to exist after the period is over.	
merchant		A person who buys or sells goods in large quantities.	
Mount Olympus		The mythical home of the gods in Greek mythology.	
myth		A traditional story explaining the history of people or a natural phenomenon.	
oligarchy		A system of government where a small group of people control everything.	
Olympics		Sporting event and sacrifice held every four years in honour of the god Zeus.	
Parthenon		Temple dedicated to the goddess Athena located on the Athenian Acropolis.	
Phalanx		A body of soldiers standing or moving in close formation.	
philosophy		The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence.	
Polis		An ancient Greek city-state.	
polytheistic		Religious system of government where a small group of people control everything.	
society		People in general, thought of as a large, organised group.	
Sparta		Sparta was a city-state in Ancient Greece that fought a long war against Athens, called the Peloponnesian War, from 431 to 404BC	
Spartans		Citizens of the city-state of Sparta. Fighting wars was what the Spartans did best. Greeks said that in battle one Spartan was worth several other men	
Stadion		The original Olympic event, the Stadion was a running race the length of the stadium.	
stylus		An ancient writing implement, consisting of a small rod.	
temple		A building devoted to the worship of gods.	
Titans		The first Greek gods. They were overthrown by their children the Olympians.	
trade		The act of exchanging or buying and selling goods.	



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KS2 Year D

2025 2026

History Vocabulary – Maya

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
artefact		An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.	
astronomer		Someone who studies the planets and the stars.	
bloodletting ritual		A ritual where the ruler of a city state offered their blood to the gods	
cacao		A tree whose bean-like seeds are used to make chocolate.	
calendar		A printed table showing all the days, weeks and months of the year.	
city state		An independent state made up of a city and the farmland and villages around it.	
civilisation		Human society which is organised.	
codex		Illustrated book made by the Maya - plural codices.	
deities		gods or sacred figures	
drought		A long period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.	
dynasty		A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them.	
empire		A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.	
equinox		When day and night are of equal length. There are two every year.	
eclipse		When one object in space blocks us from seeing another object in space. A solar eclipse is when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth.	
hieroglyphics		A system of writing using pictures not words.	
indigenous		People or things belong to the country in which they are found.	
jade		A hard stone which is usually green. The Maya often used it to make jewellery.	
kingdom		A place ruled by a king, queen or important person.	
maize		Also known as corn, is a cereal grain.	
Mesoamerica		parts of Mexico and Central America	
prediction		A statement about what you think will happen in the future.	
priest		A religious leader. Mayan priests carried out rituals and studied the stars.	
pyramid		A very tall building with sloped sides. The Maya built their temples on top of stepped pyramids.	
quetzal		A colourful bird which can be found in Central America. The Maya considered it to be sacred.	
sacred		holy	
sacrifice		To kill an animal or person in a religious ceremony.	



settlements			A place, typically one that has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.	
solstice			There are two solstices every year. The summer solstice is the day with the most hours of sunlight. The winter solstice is the day with the fewest.	
stelae			An upright stone slab or column decorated with figures or inscriptions, common in prehistoric times.	
syllabogram			Picture used to communicate.	
temple			A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.	
tomb			A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.	

History Vocabulary - Local History: The Railway

Words	RAG		Definition	Tally
export			To send (goods or services) to another country for sale.	
dairy			milk based products	
pasteurisation			The partial sterilization of a product, such as milk, to make it safe for eating/drinking and improve its keeping quality.	
Railway Mania			Many important railways were planned and built during this time as a result of the Industrial Revolution.	
expansion			Becoming larger or more extensive.	
construction			The action of building something, typically a large structure.	
implements			A tool, utensil, or other piece of equipment that is used for a particular purpose.	
foundry			A workshop or factory used for casting metal.	
nursery			A place where young plants and trees are grown for sale or for planting elsewhere.	
brewery			A place where beer is made to be sold.	
ATVs			all terrain vehicles (like quad bikes)	
livestock			Farm animals (to be sold for meat/money).	
coal			a black rock mainly found underground which can burn and is used for fuel	
limestone			A hard sedimentary rock often used as a building material.	
trade			The action of buying and selling goods and services.	
industry			Economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories.	
profitable			Making a profit or financial gain.	
agriculture			farming	
branch lines			A railway line that goes to small towns rather than one that goes between large cities.	
rural			characteristic of the countryside rather than the town	
economy			The state of a country or region in terms of the production and use of goods and services and the supply of money.	
The Big Four			the four main railway companies (see below)	
LMS			London, Midland and Scottish Railway	
GWR			Great Western Railway	
LNER			London, North Eastern Railway	



SR			Southern Railway	
nationalisation			The transfer of a major branch of industry or commerce from private to state ownership or control e.g. the <i>Government</i> owns and controls it.	
privatisation			The transfer of a business, industry, or service from public to private ownership and control e.g. the <i>Government</i> no longer owns or controls it.	
leisure			Use of free time for enjoyment.	
recreation			Activity done for enjoyment when one is not working.	
manufacturer			A person or company that makes goods for sale.	