

Year 5 and Year 6 – History Big Questions and Target Memories

2026 - 2027			2027-2028		
Autumn	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world. A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils’ chronological knowledge beyond 1066. The legacy of Greek culture (art, architecture or literature).	a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils’ chronological knowledge beyond 1066 - The changing power of monarchs using case studies - A significant turning point in British history (<i>Creation of CofE</i>)	a local history study: Examples (non-statutory) - a depth study linked to one of the British areas of study listed above - a study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (this can go beyond 1066) - a study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.	a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils’ chronological knowledge beyond 1066 A significant turning point in British history (<i>WW2</i>)	A non-European society that provides contrasts with British history – one study chosen from: Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-1300.	the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor This could include: - Viking raids and invasion - resistance by Alfred the Great and Athelstan, first king of England - further Viking invasions and Danegeld - Anglo-Saxon laws and justice - Edward the Confessor and his death in 1066
<u>What is the legacy of the ancient Greek civilisation?</u> The Ancient Greek civilisation began around <i>800 BC</i> and lasted until <i>146 BC</i>. Ancient Greece was made up of city-states, such as Athens and Sparta, each with its own rules and way of life. The Greeks developed early ideas about democracy, where citizens could vote and help make decisions. The Ancient Greeks believed their gods lived on Mount Olympus, and these beliefs shaped their society, as people built temples, told myths and followed traditions to honour the gods. The Ancient Greeks left a lasting legacy, including the Olympic Games, new ideas in government, learning, art and architecture.	<u>What was life like in Tudor England?</u> Tudor England was ruled by kings and queens, including Henry VII, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, between 1485 and 1603. Most people lived in small villages and worked as farmers, labourers or craftspeople. Everyday life was hard for many people because of disease, poor hygiene and very limited medical knowledge. Henry VIII is remembered as a powerful Tudor king who had six wives and changed many important laws. The Tudors made major changes to religion in England, including shutting down monasteries and creating the Church of England. Rich and poor people lived very different lives, with wealthy Tudors enjoying grand houses, fine clothes and better food than ordinary people.	<u>What can the census tell us about local areas?</u> 1.The census collects information about people such as their age, job, where they live, and who lives in their household. 2.The census can be used to learn about how people lived in the past, including Victorian children and their working lives. 3.Comparing different censuses shows how people’s lives and jobs changed over time. 4.Other historical sources, such as photographs and letters, are used to check and support what the census tells us. 5.The 1921 census shows changes in Britain, such as new jobs, different family sizes, and where people lived.	<u>What was the impact of World War 2 on the people of Britain?</u> World War 2 began in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland, and Britain declared war to support its allies. During the Blitz, cities across Britain were bombed and families had to use shelters to stay safe. Many children were evacuated from cities to the countryside to protect them from air raids. Life on the Home Front meant rationing, blackouts and everyone working together to cope with shortages. Women and people from around the British Empire helped by joining the forces and taking on important war jobs. World War 2 changed British society, and people had to rebuild their homes and communities after the war ended in 1945.	<u>How did the Kingdom of Benin grow, thrive and leave a lasting legacy?</u> The Kingdom of Benin was an ancient West African kingdom located where southern Nigeria is today, and it developed over many centuries. Benin began when rainforest villages joined together to form a strong kingdom that protected itself with huge earthworks like the Benin moat. The first Ogiso dynasty ended around AD 1180, leading to new rulers called Obas, who became powerful leaders of the kingdom. Obas were honoured in bronze plaques, which help historians understand Benin’s rulers, culture and achievements. Most people in Benin worked as farmers, craftspeople or traders, producing goods such as yams, plantains and fine metalwork that made the kingdom successful. Benin’s later history includes conflict with Britain, the destruction of Benin City in 1897, and the removal of its bronzes, which are still discussed today.	<u>Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?</u> The Vikings began invading Britain in 793AD from Norway, Denmark and Sweden (Scandinavia). Vikings raided monasteries and villages, taking treasure and capturing people. The Vikings used long trading routes across Europe and beyond to swap goods like furs, wool and timber for silver, spices and jewellery. Some Vikings settled in Britain, building homes and farming the land, especially in the area known as Danelaw. Viking longships helped them travel quickly for raiding, trading and exploring. The Vikings achieved many things such as building fast longships and creating strong settlements and these achievements changed Britain in lasting ways.

