Progression of skills in History



Skills:	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Chronology	Talk about and	Creates simple	Realises that	Uses and	Begins to	Understands that	Can accurately
	sort familiar	timelines to	historians use	understands	understand	past civilizations	place
Developing an	events into a	sequence	dates to describe	phrases such as	historical periods	overlap with	civilizations/
understanding of	simple	processes,	events.	over three	overlap each	others in	periods studied,
the chronology of	chronological	events, objects		hundred years	other and vary in	different parts of	in chronological
the people,	timeline using	within their own	Use phrases	ago' and AD/BC	length.	the world, and	order and may
events, periods	basic chronology.	experience.	describing	or BCE/CE.		that their	take account of
or civilizations			intervals of time		Uses more	respective	some overlap in
studied.	Use everyday	Confidently uses	e.g. before,		precise	durations vary	duration and
	language related	vocabulary	after, at the		chronological		intervals
	to the passing of	associated with	same time etc.		vocabulary.		between them.
	time.	the past e.g. 'old					
		and new, then					
		and now'.					
Characteristic	Talk about some	Recognises that	Recognises and	Can describe	Can give simple	Understand that	Can contrast and
Features	of the things	buildings,	describes, in	main features	explanations that	some past	make some
	they have	clothing,	simple terms,	associated with	not everyone in	civilizations in	significant links
Identifying	observed in clips	transport or	some	the period/	the past lived in	different parts of	between
characteristic	and	technology could	characteristic	civilization	the same way.	the world have	civilizations/
features of	photographs.	be different in	features of a	studied, mostly		some important	periods studied.
events, people,		the past.	person or period	using period	Consistently uses	similarities.	
periods or	Answer 'how' and		studied.	specific language	period specific		Can give
civilizations	'why' questions	Shows			language in	Can identify and	reasoned
studied.	in response to	awareness of	Increasingly uses		explanations.	make links	explanations with
	artefacts and	significant	period specific			between	reference to
	photos.	features not seen	language in			significant	significant
		today.	explanations			characteristics of	examples of
	Talk about					periods/	some
	experiences that					civilization	connections
	are familiar to					studied and	between ways of
	them and how					others studied	life in the
	these may have					previously.	different

	differed in the						civilizations and
	past.						periods studied.
Continuity and	Begin to notice	Can match old	Can talk about	Can describe	Can describe and	Can give simple	Understands that
Change	and talk about	objects to people	similarities and	some changes in	give some	explanations with	changes in
	similarities and	or situations	differences not	history over a	examples of a	simple examples	different places
Developing an	differences	from the past.	just between	period of time	range of changes	of why change	and periods can
understanding	between things		then and now	and identify	at particular	happened during	be connected.
that while many	in the past and	Can describe	but between	some things	points in history	particular events/	
aspects of life	now.	how some	then and another	which stayed the	while some	periods.	Has an overview
changed for		aspects of life	then.	same.	things remained		of the kinds of
people over time,		today differ from			the same.	Understands that	things that
change was not necessarily		the past using simple historical			Can explain why	there is usually a combination of	impact on history and are
universal nor		vocabulary.			changes in	reasons for any	continuous
occurred at a		vocabulary.			different places	change.	through time and
consistent rate.					might be	change.	the kinds of
consistent rate.					connected in	Understands that	things impacting
					some way.	changes do not	change
						impact everyone	significantly.
						in the same way	
						or at the same	
						time.	
Cause and	Question why	Can give simple	Can describe in	Can describe the	Can describe	Can explain	Can explain the
Consequence	things happen	explanations why	simple terms the	causes and/or	with simple	consequences in	causes and
	and give simple	a person from	causes of an	consequences of	examples	terms of	consequences of
Develop an	explanations for	the past acted as	important	an important	different types of	immediate and	quite complex
understanding	their ideas.	they did and talk	historical event	historical event	causes seeing	longer term	events, even
that changes in		about the	offering at least	offering more	that events	effects and/or	though they
the past usually		consequences of	one example of	than one	happen for	that people were	might still link
resulted from		those actions.	its results.	example of	various reasons	affected	some in a simple
several factors				these.	not just human	differently.	way.
and that the					actions.		
consequences of						Can link causes	
those changes						or explain that	
affected people						one cause might be linked to	
differently, or not							
at all, depending						another making an event much	
on a range of other factors.						an event much	
outer factors.							

						more likely to happen	
Historical Significance Develop an understanding that significance in historical terms, implies that the impact of an event, person's actions or change was widespread, wide ranging or lasted for some considerable time (possibly into the present).	Listen to and make comments about key people from the past.	Can recognise and describe special times or events for family or friends	Can recognise and talk about who was important e.g. in a simple historical account.	Understands that events, people and developments are considered significant if they resulted in change (had consequences for people at the time and/or over time).	Can identify significance reveals something about history or contemporary life	Can use criteria to make judgements as to the significance of events, people or developments within a particular historical narrative.	Can make judgements about historical significance against criteria. Recognises that historical significance varies over time, and by the interpretations of those ascribing that significance (provenance).
Historical Interpretation Building an understanding that all history is to some extent a construct, the reliability of which depends on the type and range of evidence available about a person, event, period or civilization and the aims or view of those that		Can identify and talk about different accounts of real historical situations.	Can identify and talk about differences in accounts relating to people or events both from the time (contemporary source) and from the present (interpretive source).	Can recognise differences between versions of the same event and can give a simple explanation of why we might have more than one version.	Can describe how different interpretations arise. Understands that historical understanding is continuously being revised; if we find new evidence we have to rewrite the past.	Understands that different accounts of the past emerge for various reasons - different people might give a different emphasis. Understands that some interpretations are more reliable than others.	Understands that all history is to some extent a construct (interpretation) and can identify a range of reasons for this. Understands that interpretations can be questioned on the grounds of the range of evidence used to support them or due to the aims of the creator of

developed the construct.							the interpretation (provenance).
Historical Enquiry The development and increasingly sophisticated use of historical skills and the ability to communicate the findings of historical studies.	Develop their own explanations by connecting ideas and events.	Can talk about similarities and differences between two or more historical sources using simple historical terms. Can talk about past events and use annotations or captions (maybe scribed) to identify important features of picture sources, artefacts etc.	Can gather information from simple sources to ask and answer questions about the past. Can explain events and actions rather than just retell the story.	Can describe in simple terms how sources reveal important information about the past. Recognises that the absence of certain types of sources can make it more difficult to draw conclusions.	Can describe and question the origins and purposes of sources using knowledge of periods and civilizations. Asks perceptive questions. Knows how to find, select and utilise suitable information and sources to formulate and investigate hypothesis.	Can explain with examples why a source might be unreliable. Can construct simple reasoned arguments about aspects of events, periods and civilizations studied.	Can question source reliability with reference to the period or civilization and/or the provenance of a source, considering why different sources may give conflicting information and offering reasons for this. Can construct reasoned arguments about events, periods or civilizations studied.