

History Substantive Concepts: Golden Thread Map

Concept	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monarchy 	Significant individuals (Elizabeth I)	Gunpowder Plot and James I	Henry VIII and the Tudors	Ancient Greece and leadership structures; Roman rule	Anglo-Saxon Kings; Alfred the Great; Edward the Confessor; Viking rulers	Victorian Britain; British Empire; Medieval England
Conflict 	Great Fire of London	Battle of Hastings; Gunpowder Plot	Stone Age survival and change; Tudor England	Roman conquest of Britain; Boudicca; Battle of Medway	Anglo-Saxon and Viking struggles	World War II; British espionage; Empire and Benin
Civilisation 	Changes within living memory	Norman Britain	Stone, Bronze and Iron Age Britain	Ancient Greece; Ancient Rome	Anglo-Saxon England	Victorian Britain; British Empire; Medieval England; Benin Kingdom
Innovation 	Toys and games through time	Chatham Dockyard; local heritage	Bronze and Iron Age developments	Greek achievements; Roman engineering	Viking trade and settlement	Industrial developments; social reforms; espionage
Inequality 	Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole	Significant people and their impact	Charles Dickens and Victorian poverty	Roman society; rich and poor in Ancient Rome	Social hierarchy in Anglo-Saxon England	British Empire; Victorian children; Medieval society;

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						Benin; Crime and Punishment
Religion 	Significant individuals and beliefs	Gunpowder Plot	Henry VIII and the Reformation; Iron Age beliefs	Ancient Greek and Roman beliefs; Ancient Egypt	Anglo-Saxon conversion to Christianity	Medieval Church; Benin beliefs
Slavery 	Understanding fairness and unfairness	Introducing fairness through significant events and people	Ancient societies and slavery	Roman slavery	Anglo-Saxon and Viking slavery	British Empire; Transatlantic Slave Trade; Benin; Medieval England
Migration & Movement 	Family history; changes over time	Significant explorers	Explorers and exploration	Roman Empire; movement of peoples; Roman Britain	Anglo-Saxon settlement; Viking migration and trade	Empire; Windrush; World War II evacuation; migration and diversity in modern Britain

Progression of Understanding

Monarchy

- KS1: Monarchs are important leaders.
- Lower KS2: Monarchs influence events, religion and society.

- Upper KS2: Monarchs gain and lose power over time and shape nations.

Conflict

- KS1: Events can change people's lives.
- Lower KS2: Conflicts have causes and consequences.
- Upper KS2: Conflicts have complex political, social and economic causes.

Civilisation

- KS1: People lived differently in the past.
- Lower KS2: Ancient civilisations had distinct features and achievements.
- Upper KS2: Civilisations develop, interact, change and decline.

Innovation

- KS1: Things change over time.
- Lower KS2: New ideas and technologies improve lives.
- Upper KS2: Innovation drives historical change and societal development.

Inequality

- KS1: People's experiences are not always the same.
- Lower KS2: Wealth and status affect people's lives.
- Upper KS2: Power structures create inequalities that shape societies.

Religion

- KS1: People hold different beliefs.
- Lower KS2: Beliefs influence how societies function.
- Upper KS2: Religion influences power, conflict and social change.

Slavery

- KS1: Some treatment of people in the past was unfair.
- Lower KS2: Slavery existed in ancient societies.
- Upper KS2: Slavery has had significant global consequences and lasting legacies.

Migration & Movement

- KS1: People move for different reasons.
- Lower KS2: Migration changes societies.
- Upper KS2: Migration is a major force in shaping Britain's history and identity.

End Point by Year 6

Pupils can use the substantive concepts of monarchy, conflict, civilisation, innovation, inequality, religion, slavery and migration to explain historical events, make connections between periods, evaluate significance and understand how the past has shaped the modern world.

They recognise recurring patterns across history and can support their thinking with evidence, demonstrating a secure understanding of both British and world history.