



Key Historical Terms

Below are some key historical terms that the children should be taught and use during history lessons. The National Curriculum states that pupils in Key Stage 1 “should use a wide vocabulary of historical terms” while pupils in KS2 “should develop the appropriate use of historical terms”. These terms can then be used to construct informed responses.

Some words are specific to historical periods, others are for more general use.

Key KS1 and KS2 Historical Terms						
AD	Change	Democracy	Hunter-gatherer	Metal-working	Parliament	Secondary evidence
Agriculture	Church	Discovery	Immigrant	Migration	Past	Settler
Ancient civilisations	Christianity	Diversity	International	Missionary	Peasant	Significance
Archaeology	Chronology	Emigrant	Interpretation	Monarchy	Pope	Slave
Aristocracy	Colony	Emperor	Invasion	Monastery	Prehistory	Stone Age
Artefact	Conquest	Empire	Invention	Museum	Present	Torture
BC	Continuity	Execution	Iron Age	Myths	Primary evidence	Traitor
Bronze Age	Court	Explorer	Islam	Legends	Rebellion	Treason
Calendar	Crusades	Global	King / Queen	Nation	Republic	Yesterday
Causation	Dark Ages	Gods / Goddesses	Local	Nomad	Revolt	
Century	Decade	Heresy	Long ago	Oral history	Sacrifice	