

The Primary History Curriculum at Rygaards School

Purpose of study

The Primary History Education at Rygaards School will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of how and why the world is as it is today and aims to inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Pupils will be encouraged to ask perceptive questions, think critically and weigh evidence. The History Curriculum will help pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

Aims

The Primary History Curriculum at Rygaards School broadly follows the English national curriculum for history which aims to ensure that all pupils:

- know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; and achievements of mankind
- gain and deploy a historically-grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire' and 'civilisation'
- understand historical concepts such as; continuity and change; and cause and consequence, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, and create their own structured accounts and written narratives
- understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used to make historical claims
- gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history.

Key Stage 2

By the end of KS2, it is aimed that;

- pupils have continued to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study.
- they are able to note connections, contrasts and trends over time using historical terms.
- they are able to devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity, difference, and significance and can construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- they understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources and that different versions of past events may exist, and are able to give some reasons for this.

In KS2, pupils are taught about:

- the achievements of an early civilization – Ancient Egypt (Y4)
- Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world (Y5)

- the legacy of Greek culture (art, architecture or literature) on later periods in history, including the present day (Y5)
- Iron Age living (Y6 conduct a week's residential stay at an Iron Age Village, Lejre, experiencing life as in Iron Age times)
- the Vikings at home in Denmark and their explorations to other parts of the world. (Y3)
- the changing power of Danish monarchs using case studies eg. Christian IV (Y5)
- a local history study; the School's History (y6) and the History of Copenhagen and Denmark (Y5)
- a study of an aspect of history or a site that is significant to a locality – The influence and effect of the British Empire in India. (Y5)
- a study of a theme in history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge – Inventions (Y4) and Space Travel (Y5)
- a significant turning point in world history – World War II (Y6)

History Overview of Themes

Year 3

The Vikings:
 Aspects of Home Life
 Trading
 Warriors and Explorers
 Viking gods/myths and legends

Year 4

Ancient Egypt:
 Aspects of Home Life
 Farming along the Nile
 The Pharoahs
 Egyptian gods and the afterlife
 Inventions

Year 5

The History of Space Travel
 India- The British Empire
 Ancient Greece

Danish History

Year 6

The Vikings (including a week's residential visit to Lejre)

The Second World War

The History of the School