



History

Shurdington Knowledge Stems are 6 pieces of key knowledge that subject leaders have chosen as the building blocks for each unit. Following a quick introductory lesson at the start of lesson 1, where all 6 stems are shared, they will then be learnt by all children through the use of low stake tests at the start of each of the following lessons. These 'Knowledge Stems' are core pieces of knowledge we want all children to learn and will be built on within the main part of the unit lessons. All children should be able to confidently remember these stems and previous stems they have learnt.

Reception	
ELG	Past and Present
Knowledge Stems	The times of day, days in the week and seasons of the year go in order and repeat. If something has happened in the past, it had already happened, something that hasnt happened yet will be in the future. At every birthday, I get one year older. In winter, I wear lots of warm clothes as it is cold. In summer, I wear cool clothes because it is warmer. Each year, we celebrate Christmas and Easter. My parents were born after my grandparents but before me. Now I can: walk, talk, eat, play, draw, use the toilet etc. I could not do these when I was a baby.

Year 1			
Unit	The Great Fire of London	Toys Trough Time	Seaside through the Ages
Knowledge Stems	In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together. The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriners bakery on Pudding Lane. The fire burned for five days. The fire spread quickly as the building were close together, it was the end of summer so everywhere was quite dry and it was windy. People used leather buckets and water squirts to try to put the fire out, but these did not work. King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading this was also helped with the wind dying down. King Charles II ordered that buildings should be rebuilt from brick or stone and that streets should be made wider.	Toys have existed for thousands of years. They were made out of the materials that were available at the time. Even stones and string have been made into toys. Toys were mainly made of wood, paper and metal when our grandparents were children. When our parents were children, they would have had toys made from plastic. Modern toys are mainly made of plastic. This is because it is usually safer and easier to make things with. Many modern toys use electricity to work. Computers and consoles were invented in the last 100 years.	Seaside holidays were popular in when many of our grandparents and great grandparents were children. They became popular because they were affordable and the invention of the steam train made it possible. In the past, families would ride donkeys, eat ice cream, walk the promenade, go fishing, watch Punch and Judy and swim in the sea on their holidays. Weston-Super-Mare is our closest seaside holiday destination. Grace Darling was a lighthouse keepers daughter who rescued stranded survivors from a ship wreck. The RNLI was formed nearly 200 years ago to keep people safe in the sea.

Year 2			
Unit	Monarchs	Explorers	Transport Through Time
Knowledge Stems	A monarch is a king or queen, an emperor or a sultan. The next monarch is called the heir; they are usually the first born child of the current monarch. (Prince William) The Prime Minister and the Government help the King lead the United Kingdom. Making important decisions for the country. King Charles and The Queen Consort Camilla support many charities and help to improve the lives of many people. Elizabeth I was the daughter of King Henry VIII. She was famous for ruling alone without a husband. Queen Victoria was Queen for so long (63 years) a period of history was named after her. Queen Elizabeth II reigned for 70 years.	An explorer is a person who explores or discovers new or unfamiliar areas. Ibn Battuta was an explorer 700 years ago. Neil Armstrong was the first person on the moon in 1969. Mae Jemison was the first black women in space. Edward Wilson was an explorer from Cheltenham. He was significant for exploring Antarctica just over 100 years ago. Some governments funded explorers so they would find new lands, wealth and trade routes.	The wheel was first used for transport in 3500 BC. The steam train was invented by George Stephenson and changed the way people moved goods and travelled. Many city people, even the poorer workers, were able to travel to the seaside for the first time. Frank Whittle invented the jet engine which was manufactured in Gloucestershire. Gloucester Docks are the most inland port in the UK. They were used mainly for agricultural goods. The developments in transport meant people could move further (migrate), travel faster and trade more. Transport developments have also had negative impacts such as pollution.

Year 3			
Unit	Ancient Civilisations	Ancient Egypt	Stone Age to Iron Age
Knowledge Stems	All of the Ancient Civilisations were built on a river and had a monarchy government structure. They were all built on the same line of latitude-not the equator. Ancient Sumner were famed for the introduction of the wheel. The clock system we use today of 60 minutes was devised by ancient Sumerians. The Indus Valley developed a grid pattern for town design. Shang Dynasty invented and developed items such as bronze tools and chariots.	Ancient Egypt was a civilisation that lasted around 3000 years. Most of the people who lived in ancient Egypt were farmers. The River Nile is the worlds longest river that was essential to life in ancient Egypt. Tutankhamun is the most famous Egyptian Pharaoh. He became a Pharaoh at the age of just 9! Hieroglyphics was system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters. It took linguists 20 years to translate them into modern language. The use of pyramids and other tombs means that we have a lot of evidence about the lives of the Egyptians.	The Stone Age is prehistoric period which is named after the stone tools that the earliest humans used to help them survive. People in the Stone Age moved around from place to place with the seasons, in order to keep safe and warm and to follow the animals they hunted. Stonehenge is a famous prehistoric monument in southern England, built at the end of the Stone Age and into the Bronze Age. People in the Bronze Age and Iron Age lived in roundhouses. These could be very large and would have housed many people. Iron was used to make tools and weapons. The Iron Age came to an end in AD43 when the Romans invaded Britain. Skara Brae was discovered after a storm in AD 1850 removed the earth that had been covering it. It is a Stone Age village of eight houses, linked by covered passageways.

Year 4		
Unit	Romans In Britain	Ancient Greece
Knowledge Stems	The Roman Empire started in the city state of Rome in Italy. They invaded Britain (on their third attempt) in 43 AD. The Romans invaded Britain to seek natural resources and slaves. Roman soldiers had to be tall and strong. There were two main types of Roman soldiers: Legionaries (Roman Citizens) and Auxiliaries (not Roman citizens) The Roman Army was the first modern army. They were paid, well equipped and highly trained. At its height, one quarter of the worlds population was ruled by the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire facilitated the movement of people in and out of Britain resulting in a multicultural society. The Romans were fantastic architects, they mastered many building techniques such as the archway that are still used today. Chedworth Villa, Gloucestershire, is one of the largest and most elaborate Roman villas that has been discovered in Britain making it a very valuable source to learn about Roman history. The Romans loved leisure activities, including going to open air theatres. The Romans believed in many Gods and these all played had different roles but over time the Romans in Britain began to adopt Christianity as their main religion. The end of the Roman Empire in Britain was 409 AD. At this time, the Roman Empire had lots of enemies throughout the world and it couldnt remain in control of Britain.	Ancient Greek culture began around 2700 BC and ended around 150BC but the 'Classical Golden age' was 500BC-323BC. Important city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta. Artefacts such as pottery and statues can tell us about life in Ancient Greece. Greek Myths include: 12 labours of Hercules, Theseus and the Minotaur and Perseus and Medusa. Around 508 BC, democracy was introduced to ancient Athens. After debating issues, the ancient Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in democracy were adult males who were citizens of Athens. The Olympic Games and the Marathon originated from Ancient Greece. The first Games was in 776BD in Olympia. Some of the most famous legacies from ancient Greece include sculptures, architecture, philosophy, arts, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas.

Year 5		
Unit	Ancient Maya	Anglo Saxons and Vikings
Knowledge Stems	In 200BC, the Maya civilisations comes into being in Central America. The Maya people believed that the earth, which they called the Middeworld, was large and flat and resting on the back of a creature. On the Middeworld grew a tree whose branches reached up into the heavens (the Upperworld) and whose roots grew down into Xibalba (the Underworld). The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs. To keep track of time the Maya observed and recorded the yearly cycles of the sun. The Maya developed a complex number and counting system that was advanced for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero. The Maya played Pok-A-Tok which was a game played with a rubber ball.	The Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians were tribes of people that came to Britain from Germany and Denmark. The Vikings came to Britain in 787 AD from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in longboats. The Scots came to Britain from Ireland. The Anglo Saxons and Vikings lived in Briton at the same time. The Anglo Saxons, Vikings and Scots all travelled to Britain in search of better land and resources. The Vikings raided places such as monasteries looking for valuable goods to sell and make money. Sites such as Sutton Hoo have provided evidence historians can use to learn about this period of history. There are still Saxon towns in Britain today, such as London and Winchester and Viking settlements like York. The Vikings claimed land and tried to take over much of Britain. By 878AD the Vikings had permanently settled on Britain. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled on Britain there were 7 kingdoms but the Vikings took control of six of these, leaving only Wessex. William, the Duke of Normandy, thought he should be King so he came to fight King Harold II in the Battle of Hastings in 1066. William won The Battle of Hastings and became known as William the Conqueror. This brought an end to the Viking and Anglo-Saxon Age in 1066.

Year 6		
Unit	World War II	Victorian Cheltenham
Knowledge Stems	The Blitz was a German bombing campaign against the UK in 1940 to 1941. WWII began in 1939 because Adolf Hitler broke an agreement and invaded Poland. The main allies were France, USA and Britain. The main Axis were Germany and Italy. Other nations that were involved in WW II were Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Russia. During World War II, over 3.5 million children were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. Life during and after WW2 was challenging. As well as many being away from home, they had to live off rations, carry gas masks and had to follow many strict rules. The Kinder Transport was a name given to the mission which took thousands of children in areas controlled by Nazis to a place of safety. Women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives. WW2 ended in 1945. Victory in Europe was declared first on 8th May 1945 and Victory over Japan was declared 15th August 1945. WW2 is remembered, along with other conflicts, on Armistice Day on the 11th November each year.	The Victorian era was between 1837-1901 while Queen Victoria was on the throne. During Queen Victorias 63 year reign, there were major changes to all aspects of life in Britain including the invention of the Steam train which impacted life in Cheltenham. New laws were brought in for children including, children under 10 couldnt work in the mines or chimney sweeps, children aged 8-13 couldnt work for longer than 6.5 hours a day and school was made compulsory for 5-10 year olds. Cheltenham college (1841) and Cheltenham ladies college (1854) were both built during this time. Charles Aston was a 14 year old boy from Gloucester who was sent to prison for stealing. Cheltenham was spa town which meant it had spa baths and places where people could get medicinal water such as Pitville Pump room.