

History Knowledge categories



Settlements

Throughout history people have organised themselves into settlements.

Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- homes (including the types of materials used and construction techniques)
- sanitation
- heating
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, bath houses)
- monuments and memorials
- gathering places (e.g. citadels, amphitheatres, town squares)
- the nature of a settlement (e.g. villages, towns, cities)
- defences
- important features (e.g. proximity to a river or sea port).



Beliefs

Beliefs often form the basis for day-to-day routines and practices. By organising knowledge into belief systems, students can begin to understand why people acted as they did.

Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- pagan practices
- organised religions
- key events (e.g. sacrifice)
- ideologies
- symbols.

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Culture and pastimes

Evidence of culture and pastimes exists from some of the earliest civilisations.

Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- artworks
- artists and artisans
- jewellery
- architecture and architects
- games
- sports
- plays and theatre
- music and instruments
- great thinkers and big ideas (e.g. the Enlightenment)
- stories and books.



Location

It is a common misconception that events or periods in history were widespread or even global.

For example, we sometimes think that the Romans ruled the whole world until the Anglo-Saxons came along to oust them, followed by the Vikings. Knowing that history involves both time and place is important in forming meaningful knowledge. Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- modern geographical locations (e.g. Iran)
- historical geographical locations (e.g. Mesopotamia)
- multiple locations, including the associated terminology (e.g. empire, commonwealth, union)
- movement and its associated terminology (e.g. migration, immigration, invasion, exploration, conquest).

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Main events

History is often thought of in terms of events and when they took place.

Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- key 'stories' and events
- dates and durations
- key figures
- the changes (or continuity) brought about by events (including achievements and legacies)
- significant events that happened elsewhere at the same or a similar time (e.g. the Iron Age in Western Europe was at a similar time to the birth of Christ).



Food and farming

How people throughout history have found food to sustain themselves is an important part of historical knowledge. Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- main food groups (e.g. grains, fish)
- popular foods and dishes
- methods of collection (e.g. hunter-gatherers, farming)
- important technological breakthroughs (e.g. plough – for cultivating land, shaduf – for irrigation)
- use of animals
- trade in foods and spices.

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Travel and exploration

How people have travelled, and how far they have travelled, has developed dramatically throughout history. Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- types of transport and how they were powered (e.g. foot and animals)
- technological advancements and their pioneers
- breakthrough events (e.g. the Moon landings)
- reasons for travel (e.g. to explore, conquer, trade, survive)
- trade routes
- holidays and how they have changed because of transport.



Conflict

Conflict has affected human behaviour throughout history.

Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- historic events
- reasons for conflict (e.g. invasions)
- weapons
- defences
- resistance
- tactics
- types of conflict (e.g. battles, wars)
- resolutions to conflicts.

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Society

Society is the way that groups organise themselves.

Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- life for different sections of society (e.g. rich and poor, men and women, adults and children, urban and rural)
- education
- crime and punishment
- health and medicine
- clothing
- social organisation (e.g. nation states, systems of government).



Artefacts

Evidence, both first hand (primary) and interpretations (secondary) helps historians to understand what happened in the past. Artefacts, a form of first-hand evidence, are the everyday objects left behind that act as clues as to what life in the past may have been like.

Aspects of knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- tools
- ornaments
- household items
- coins
- diaries
- historical accounts
- newspaper reports.