

Granard History Unit Summary

Year	Name of Unit	Unit Description
1	Toys	The Toys unit looks at popular toys through the 20th century and the early 21st century. Firstly, it asks children to think about their favourite toy from today before moving on to look at toys which were popular when their parents and grandparents were children. Throughout the unit, children will develop a range of historical skills such as: asking and answering questions, identifying and interpreting different sources and recognising change and exploring how this influences them today. A range of learning activities are used in this unit including: drawing discussions, role play and games as well as writing tasks to encourage them to fully engage in lessons.
	Kings & Queens	The Kings and Queens unit focuses on the significant British monarchs in history, and gives a more in-depth study of Richard III as well as asking children to draw comparisons between Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. The unit consolidates children's awareness of past and significant individuals through using timelines and making comparisons between various periods in history.
	Nurturing Nurses	The Nurturing Nurses unit focuses on the influential nurses Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. It asks children to establish what makes a person significant, explores and compares the lives and work of these nurses and considers how they have influenced nursing today.
2	Significant Explorers	This unit explores why some people are considered to be significant before going on to learn about some significant explorers. Children learn about the explorations of Ibn Battuta and about Matthew Henson. They compare Matthew Henson's polar exploration to a more recent exploration by Felicity Aston. The lesson about Neil Armstrong, space explorer, looks, not only at his achievements, but asks children to explore if it is right that Neil Armstrong should be remembered more than the others involved in the Apollo 11 mission. Finally, children investigate how we remember significant people and how values may change over time in relation to this. The lessons on Matthew Henson and Felicity Aston talk about racism and sexism in simple terms.
	Travel & Transport	The Travel and Transport unit looks at the development of travel and transport throughout history. Alongside consolidating the children's understanding of chronology through using timelines and making comparisons between old and new forms of transport, the unit focuses on early travel methods of the Vikings, through to the invention of cars, trains and aeroplanes. It also looks at the significant individuals George Stephenson and the Wright brothers.
	The Great Fire of London	The Great Fire of London unit focuses on the key events of the Great Fire of London, and helps them develop an understanding of the ways in which we can find out about the past through discussing primary sources. In doing so, this unit also provides an introduction to Samuel Pepys and his infamous diary. The children have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the past by comparing and contrasting past and present-day London, as well as looking at how life was different in the 17th century.
3	The Romans	The Romans unit studies the impact the Roman Empire had on life in Britain. Children learn about the spread of the Roman empire, the invasion of Britain and the eventual conquest. They look in detail at some aspects of the Romanisation of Britain, such as the building of Roman roads and bathhouses. In addition, they have the opportunity to learn about the British resistance of Boudicca and act in role to look at the events of Boudicca's rebellion from different perspectives. The children also investigate Hadrian's Wall, examining how, where and why it was built. They learn about the different features of the wall and use maps to determine its location. A lesson on gods and Roman religion helps the children to understand more about the culture and beliefs of Roman people, and they play and design games to consolidate their knowledge about the different Roman gods and goddesses.
	Anglo Saxons and Scots in Britain	This Anglo-Saxons and Scots unit looks at the invasions of the Scots and Anglo-Saxons in the 5 th century. Children find out where the invading troops came from and where in Britain they managed to settle and then they will go on to investigate how life in Britain changed as a result. They have the opportunity to learn how the Anglo-Saxons influenced the English language, with an emphasis on the origins of some English place names, and they also examine and analyse artefacts from the period and draw their own conclusions about what they can teach us about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. In addition, they also learn what life was like in a typical Anglo-Saxon village, what jobs people did and what the houses were like. They also explore the Pagan beliefs of the early Anglo-Saxons and learn about the many gods they worshipped. Finally they investigate how and why the Anglo-Saxons were largely converted to Christianity by the early 7 th century.

	Riotous Royalty	The 'Riotous Royalty' unit focuses in depth on William the Conqueror's reign from 1066 onwards, how King John made himself very unpopular as monarch and why King Henry VIII married so many times. This unit also teaches who Queen Anne was, what Queen Victoria achieved during her reign and looks at the role of the British monarchy today
4	Ancient Egypt	The Ancient Egypt unit looks in depth about the achievements of this ancient civilisation. Children learn about how and where the ancient Egyptians lived, what was important to the daily lives of ancient Egyptians, who Tutankhamun was and how mummies were made. The children also learn about how Egyptian people used hieroglyphs to communicate and compare the powers of different gods.
	Vikings and Anglo-Saxons in England (until Edward the Confessor)	This unit focuses on the raids and invasions by Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children learn who the Vikings were as well as when and where they raided and settled. They learn about significant events from the period and order these chronologically on a timeline. The children find out about the Anglo-Saxon kings who ruled during the 'Viking Age' and examine their influence and significance in British history. In addition, they learn about the Anglo-Saxon justice system and compare and contrast crimes, punishments and laws with their modern day equivalents. They also have the opportunity to learn about different aspects of everyday Viking life. They explore the types of houses that the Vikings lived in, what clothes they wore and even what types of food they ate.
	Crime and Punishment	The Crime and Punishment unit develops children's chronological knowledge beyond 1066 through studying this aspect of social history. The children find out about the legacy of the Roman justice system and crime and punishment through the Anglo-Saxon, Tudor and Victorian periods. They also deepen their historical awareness and understanding of how our past is constructed through studying the famous highwayman Dick Turpin. The final lesson allows the children to reflect upon and evaluate what they have learnt in this unit, as well as comparing modern day crime prevention and detection methods with those from the past.
5	Early Islamic Civilisation	This unit of work teaches children about the early Islamic civilisation. They learn in detail about the significance and importance of Baghdad in helping to build and shape this early civilisation and examine how and why it developed into such a major world power. In addition, they find out about the House of Wisdom and some of the influential people who worked and studied there. Children study in detail about how early Islamic doctors made significant contributions to the development of medicine and surgery and how their work still influences the medical profession today. They also have the opportunity to learn about other significant discoveries and inventions made by Muslim scholars in the early Islamic civilisation and to explore how items were made and where and how they were traded with the rest of the world. One lesson focuses on the birth of Islam and the first four caliphs who ruled following the death of the prophet Muhammad and children have the opportunity to act in role to debate the legitimacy of the Sunni and Shia Muslims.
	Benin	The Benin unit looks in depth about where the ancient Kingdom of Benin was located and how it came to thrive, what the people there believed in and how they showed this in their artwork. The unit explores western attitudes towards African civilisations, comparing the achievements, oral tales and artefacts of ancient Benin to those in Europe at the same time. The children also learn about the story of Eweka and finally discover how European invaders threatened the civilisation of ancient Benin.
	Stone Age to Iron Age	The 'Stone Age to Bronze Age' unit studies how the Stone Age to Bronze Age period impacted on life in Britain. Children learn about how early man survived in a harsh environment, why Skara Brae was important for understanding life in the Stone Age, how copper mining was crucial to the Bronze Age and why Stonehenge was built. Children also learn about why Iron Age people developed hillforts and how important Druids were in Iron Age Britain.
6	The Maya Civilisation	This unit of work teaches children all about the ancient Maya civilisation. The children learn who the ancient Maya people were and where and when they lived. They use maps and atlases to locate Maya cities and identify countries in Mesoamerica. In addition, they will learn about the religious beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya people and find out more about some of the many gods they worshipped. The children also learn about the Maya number system and have the opportunity to read and write Maya numbers and solve number problems. They learn about the Maya writing system too and practise writing words using logograms and syllabograms in the hieroglyphic style of the ancient Maya people. The children learn about the work of the explorers John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood and have the opportunity to analyse historical pictures of the cities they discovered. They also learn about the types of food eaten by the ancient Maya people and find out about the significance of corn and chocolate, arguing which was most important in a class debate.

Ancient Greece	In this unit about ancient Greece, children gain an understanding of where and when some key events during the ancient Greek period took place. They explore what is meant by the terms 'trade', 'civilisation' and 'empire' and explore how, towards the end of the ancient Greek period, Alexander the Great grew an empire resulting in the Greek civilisation spreading more widely. When learning about daily life in ancient Greece, children explore what life was like for different people who were enslaved during ancient Greek times. They independently research and feed back on different elements of daily life in ancient Greece. Children also explore the differences between life in ancient Athens and ancient Sparta. They learn about early democracy in Athens and take part in a debate about life in Athens and Sparta. Children use ancient Greek pottery as a primary source to help them gather evidence about the ancient Greek Olympics and make comparisons between the ancient Games and the modern Olympics. In addition, they learn about the beliefs of the ancient Greeks, producing fact files about the Greek gods and exploring the messages that the ancient Greeks may have taken from myths. Children sequence a version of the Trojan War and explore historical evidence relating to whether there was any truth behind the myth. Studying ancient Greece helps children to develop their questioning skills and make comparisons; learn to use historical sources and help them to understand how past events have helped to shape the world that we know today.
World War II	This unit of work is all about World War II. They learn when and why World War II began and find out about the key individuals and countries involved. In addition, they discover all about evacuation; learn what it was like to live with food rationing and explore the contribution made by women to the war effort. Furthermore, they learn important facts about the Holocaust and investigate events that were key turning points in the war, such as the Battle of Britain and the German invasion of Russia. Studying World War II helps children to develop their investigation and evaluation skills; learn to organise information chronologically and understand how past events have helped to shape the world we know today.