



Knowledge Categories Explained

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 material and construction techniques)
- sanitation
- heating
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, bath houses)
- monuments and memorials
- gathering places (e.g. amphitheatre, town square)
- the nature of the settlement (village, town, city)
- 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, pupils can begin to understand why people acted as they did. Aspects of knowledge 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 from this category are:

- artworks
- artists and artisans
- jewellery
- architecture and architects
- games
- sports
- plays and theatres
- music and instruments
- great thinkers and big ideas
- 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 involved both time and place is important in forming meaningful knowledge. Aspects of knowledge from this category are:

- modern geographical location (e.g. Iran)
- historical geographical location (e.g. Mesopotamia)
- multiple locations, included 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 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 time or 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 through history have found food to sustain themselves is an important part of historical knowledge. Aspects of this knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- main food groups (e.g. grains, fish)
- popular food and dishes
- methods of collection (e.g. hunter-gathers, farming)
- important technological breakthroughs (e.g. ploughing)
- use of animals
- trades in food 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 this knowledge that may be included in this category are:

- types of transport and how they were powered
- technological advancements and their pioneers
- breakthrough events (e.g. moon landing)
- reasons for travel (e.g. travel, conquer, 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
- weapons
- defences
- resistance
- tactics
- types of conflict
- resolutions to conflict



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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, poor, men, women)
- education
- crime and punishment
- health and medicine
- clothing
- social organisation (e.g. nation states, governments)

Artefacts



Evidence, both primary and secondary help 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