

## Some suggested enquiries for Key Stage 1 history

- *Do not choose too many enquiries. Select one or two for each term and plan a range of history activities within each one, to meet the requirements set out in the NC Aims of history and the KS1 preamble.*
- *For mixed age classes it is important that children study both the recent and the more distant past, so select accordingly.*
- *The focus for each term (People/Places/Events) is only a suggestion and can be ignored. Even if the focus is used, do not let it be restrictive.*

### **Autumn term focus – People**

- Ourselves and our families – How has life changed?
- Celebrations/Anniversaries – what are we remembering and why?
- How have people's jobs changed?
- Having fun – Has it always been the same?
- Why do people move from place to place?
- (Famous person / people) – why do we remember them?
- Elizabeth and Victoria – what mattered most to our two famous queens?
- (2 famous people from different times) – How similar were their lives?
- How did the Victorians celebrate Christmas?

### **Spring term focus - Places**

- Homes – how have they changed?
- Our school / street – What signs of change can we see?
- Our Church – Who is remembered there?
- Why does a statue of X stand there?
- A country house – How did people live there long ago?
- Castles – What was life like in a medieval castle?
- The Taj Mahal – What made it so special?
- The Pyramids – How and why were they built?

### **Summer term focus – Events (beyond living memory)**

- The Great Fire of London – How do we know what happened?
- (See the list of other “significant events” that could be studied. A precise enquiry focus and question would need to be decided for each one).

### **Enhancing history at KS1 -**

- *Be sure to note historical connections (especially “Famous People”) through the rest of the curriculum: even if artists, musicians, scientists etc who appear in other subjects are not studied in depth, do add their name and image to a class or school timeline.*
- *Note anniversaries in the news.*
- *Take other opportunities to visit the past eg by looking up children's birthdays at eg [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/on\\_this\\_day/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/on_this_day/) to see what (suitable) famous events happened on that day (or in that week) long ago. Share this with the class, adding an image and label to the timeline.*
- *Pupils from other year groups could prepare presentations for Year 1 and 2 about famous people they are studying.*
- *Assemblies could also be about famous people or events from time to time, especially pairs whose lives have a shared theme.*
- *Blend history with other subjects eg Literacy and Art.*

## Some “significant events” that might be studied at KS1

The Great Fire of London has a strong narrative, drama and lots of human interest. It was never intended, however, that children should just study ONE event when the old curriculum was written. The point of studying significant events from national and/or wider world history at KS1 is to introduce children to different times and places and ways of life that they will go on to learn more about in later years. Just to study one event does not really achieve this.

Here are some suggestions for other “significant events”. Which ones might you consider including at KS1? Jot down some +/- comments for each suggestion. What criteria will you use to decide whether to teach any of these?

Date	Event	Comments
c. 1327 BC	The entombment of the boy pharaoh, Tutankhamun, (including story of the tomb's discovery by Howard Carter in 1922).	
c. 490 BC	The Greek victory over the Persians at the Battle of Marathon.	
c. 210-209 BC	The entombment of the first Chinese emperor with his terracotta warriors.	
79 AD	Pompeii destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.	
878 AD	King Alfred the Great finally defeats the Vikings at the Battle of Edington.	
1066 AD	William of Normandy defeats King Harold at the Battle of Hastings.	
1283 AD	Edward I builds Caernarvon Castle after his victories in Wales.	
1314 AD	Edward II is defeated by Robert Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn.	
1520 AD	Cortes and his Spanish conquistadors conquer the Aztec empire.	
1588 AD	The Spanish Armada fails in its attempt to conquer England.	
1632-48 AD	The building of the Taj Mahal as an act of love and grief by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.	
1666 AD	The Great Fire of London destroys much of the capital city.	
1829 AD	The Rainhill trials, are held to discover whose locomotive would run on the world's first railway.	
1903 AD	The Wright brothers achieve the first powered flight by humans.	