Year 1/2 Curriculum Overview
History

Year Groups	Cycle	Unit List	DE Lesson found in:
Years 1 & 2	A	1. The History of Toys	Year 1
		2. The Victorians	Year 2
		3. Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole	Year 2
	B	1. Houses and Homes	Year 1
		2. The Great Fire of London	Year 1
		3. Castles	Year 2

Please note, teachers may wish to use the lesson editing tools that are available on the Developing Experts platform. Lesson presentations can be merged, and slides can be edited, added or removed to ensure your lessons flow.

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Cycle A		
Unit	**Year Group**	**Rationale**
The History of Toys	Year 1	All children will be able to access this unit, as it was designed as the first unit in the primary history curriculum. This unit will introduce children to the key historical concepts of past and present, serving as a recap for children who were taught Cycle B first. They will explore their own experiences of play, comparing their favourite toys with those from earlier generations. They will learn to ask and answer simple historical questions, identify similarities and differences between toys, and describe how materials, designs, and ways of playing have changed. They will also begin to use timelines.
The Victorians	Year 2	DE suggests teaching Victorians (Year 2), and Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole (Year 2) in the same cycle. Teaching the Victorians after The History of Toys allows children to develop their understanding of how childhood has changed by exploring Victorian schooling and the differing experiences of upper-, middle- and lower-class children at that time. They will also explore other key people and events of the time, including the reign of Queen Victoria and seaside holidays. References to the Houses and Homes unit, specifically Victorian terraces, are made within this unit, which can be adapted using the lesson editing tools.
Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole	Year 2	Having learnt about the Victorian era in the previous unit, children will have the necessary prior knowledge to access the content of this unit. This unit will introduce them to two key individuals at the time (Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole) and will support children in comparing their nursing experiences and achievements during the Crimean War.

Cycle B		
Unit	**Year Group**	**Rationale**
Houses and Homes	Year 1	DE suggests teaching this unit first in Cycle B, as it revisits the key historical concepts of past and present, supporting children for whom this is the first history unit they experience. Children will compare houses in their local area to understand how they have changed, and how houses from the past have been adapted to still be lived in today. They will explore types of housing from specific periods (Stone Age cave homes, Tudor houses and Victorian terraces) and will begin to use timelines.
The Great Fire of London	Year 1	DE suggests teaching The Great Fire of London (Year 1), and Houses and Homes (Year 1) in the same cycle. This allows children to use their understanding of Tudor homes and their wattle and daub structure to understand why and how the fire started and spread. They can then appreciate how London was rebuilt and compare modern-day London with how it looked in the past.
Castles	Year 2	In this unit, children can build upon their understanding of homes and different historical building methods to understand why castles were built, how they were structured as both homes and for defense, and how castles are used today.

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