Year 5/6 Curriculum Overview
History

Year Groups	Cycle	Unit List	DE Lesson found in:
Years 5 & 6	A	1. Vikings in Britain	Year 5
		2. The Tudors	Year 5
		3. Ancient Maya Civilisation / Local History	Year 5
	B	1. The Industrial Revolution	Year 6
		2. The Impact of World War II on Britain	Year 6
		3. Local History / Ancient Maya Civilisation	Year 6

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**
Vikings in Britain	Year 5	All pupils will have the prior knowledge from KS1 and Lower KS2 to access the content of this unit. The children will build upon their learning about Anglo-Saxon Britain by learning about the people, culture, and impact of the Vikings from their early raids to their assimilation into England. Through studying Alfred the Great, the establishment of Danelaw, and key battles, children will develop an understanding of the Vikings' influence on England.
The Tudors	Year 5	Children have the necessary prior knowledge from previous year groups to access this unit. They will explore the Tudor monarchs, from Henry VII to Elizabeth I, examining their personal achievements, political decisions, and lasting legacies. They will also investigate the social structure of Tudor society, considering differences in wealth, occupation, and daily life, as well as entertainment, theatre, and cultural developments of the time.
Ancient Maya Civilisation / Our History	Year 5 / 6	Teachers will need to decide whether the Ancient Maya Civilisation or the Our History unit will be taught in this cycle, depending on their local area's history. Teachers will need to research their local area, as explained in the Our History unit summary, to identify whether local historical sites in their area have more connections with the Viking and Tudor periods, or with the Industrial Revolution and World War II. If the local area is tied more closely with Viking and Tudor history, DE recommends teaching Our History as the third unit in Cycle A. If the local area does not have many connections to these periods, DE recommends teaching Ancient Maya Civilisation as the third unit in Cycle A. Teaching Our History: This unit focuses on researching local history, encouraging pupils to investigate how their area has changed over time and to explore significant events that have influenced its development. Before beginning the unit, teachers should identify historically significant places within the local area. These may be located within the town or city and do not necessarily need to be in the immediate neighbourhood of the school. References to The Industrial Revolution and The Impact of World War II on Britain are made within the unit, which can be adapted using the lesson editing tools. Teaching Ancient Maya Civilisation: Children have the necessary prior knowledge from previous year groups to access this unit. The children will investigate Maya city-states in the rainforest, Maya diet and agriculture, and their culture through the study of glyphs, codices, the number system, the calendar, and Maya religion.

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Cycle B		
Unit	**Year Group**	**Rationale**
The Industrial Revolution	Year 6	All children will have the prior knowledge from KS1 and Lower KS2 to access the content of this unit. Children will investigate why industrialisation occurred, the role of key inventions, and the impact of railways on the economy and everyday life. They will examine urbanisation and living conditions in industrial towns, and consider the experiences of children, including work, schooling, and the social reforms designed to improve their lives. References to social hierarchy during the Tudor period are made within the unit, which can be adapted, or replaced with references to social hierarchy during the Anglo-Saxon period, using the lesson editing tools.
The Impact of World War II on Britain	Year 6	Children have the necessary prior knowledge from previous year groups to access this unit. Children will explore the origins of World War II before examining the threat of invasion and Britain's resilience during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. They will also consider the experiences of evacuees, gaining insight into how the war affected children and families across the country. The unit further investigates life on the Home Front, with a focus on rationing, changing roles for women, and the use of propaganda to influence public opinion and maintain morale.
Ancient Maya Civilisation / Our History	Year 5 / 6	Teachers will need to decide whether the Ancient Maya Civilisation or the Our History unit will be taught in this cycle, depending on their local area's history. Teachers will need to research their local area, as explained in the Our History unit summary, to identify whether local historical sites in their area have more connections with the Industrial Revolution and World War II or the Viking and Tudor periods. If the local area is tied more closely with the events of the Industrial Revolution and World War II, DE recommends teaching Our History as the third unit in Cycle B. If the local area does not have many connections to these periods, DE recommends teaching Ancient Maya Civilisation as the third unit in Cycle B. Teaching Our History: This unit focuses on researching local history, encouraging pupils to investigate how their area has changed over time and to explore significant events that have influenced its development. Before beginning the unit, teachers should identify historically significant places within the local area. These may be located within the town or city and do not necessarily need to be in the immediate neighbourhood of the school. References to Vikings in Britain and The Tudors are made within the unit, which can be adapted using the lesson editing tools. Teaching Ancient Maya Civilisation: Children have the necessary prior knowledge from previous year groups to access this unit. The children will investigate Maya city-states in the rainforest, Maya diet and agriculture, and their culture through the study of glyphs, codices, the number system, the calendar, and Maya religion. References to Vikings in Britain and The Tudors are made within the unit, which can be adapted using the lesson editing tools.

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