

St Peter's CE Primary School
History Concept Definitions



Concept	What does it mean and why do we learn it?
Continuity & change	Historians recognise that there are some things that over time stay the same and other things that change. Examples of continuity and change can be seen across every civilisation and any given period of time. Many aspects of history influence both how we act and how we live today. Change can occur within a certain civilisation or specific time period, but also across different civilisations and time periods. 'Change' refers to something that is clearly different from what occurred previously.
Invention	Many of modern society's institutions and ideas (as well as many objects we use every day) can be traced back to the ancient world. This includes democratic governments to sporting events and paper to chocolate.
Civilisation	A civilisation is a complex human society, usually made up of many cities with certain characteristics of cultural and technological development. In many parts of the world, early civilisations began when people came together in urban settlements.
Empire	An empire is the collective name for a group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country. There have been many empires throughout history including the Roman Empire and even the British Empire. Today, the only monarch to use the title 'emperor' is the Emperor of Japan (although the head of government is the Prime-Minister of Japan).
Monarchy	A monarchy is a form of government that has a single person known as a monarch at its head. Monarchs use such titles as king, queen, emperor, or empress. Monarchies were once common throughout the world, but now they are rare. Monarchs generally reign for life. Also, most monarchies are hereditary.
Invasion	Invaders are an army or country that that uses force to enter and take control of another piece of land or country.
Migration	Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. Migration has positive and negative effects on a country or area.
Settlements	Settlements are formed when settlers (a person or group of people) arrive, especially from another country, in a new place in order to live there and use the land.
Religion	Religion can be defined as an organised system of beliefs and practices revolving around or leading to a transcendent spiritual experience. Historians are particularly interested in the context in which religions initially arose and then their subsequent development, especially how they changed when they entered new societies.