

Our Substantive Concepts

These golden threads, weave through each key stage to ensure that children revisit and develop them over time, in a variety of historical contexts.

Concept	Squirrel Class	Otter Class	Badger Class
	Queen Elizabeth II	The Tudors	Ancient Egypt
Monarchy	Queen Elizabeth II is Head of State of the United Kingdom, Head of the Commonwealth and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Her reign began on the 6th February 1952. Queen Elizabeth II is Britain's longest-reigning monarch, beating Queen Victoria's record of 63 years and seven months on the throne. In 2017 she celebrated her Sapphire Jubilee (65 years on the throne), the first British monarch to do so. Queen Victoria	The Tudors are one of the most famous families ever to rule England. They were in power from 1485 when Henry Tudor was crowned King Henry VII, until the time Queen Elizabeth I died, without an heir, in 1603	Monarchies have existed since people first started forming civilizations. In early times some peoples, like the ancient Egyptians, saw their monarchs as godlike or as actual gods.
	Queen Victoria lived for 81 years, and Britain became a very different country during her time. When Victoria became queen, children had to go out to work. By the time she died, children went to school. A long period of history is named after her - the Victorian Age.		
	The Battle of Britain and The Blitz	The Vikings	The Romans
Invasion	Germany knew that to win the war they'd need to invade Britain and the best way of doing that was from the sky. The German air force (called the Luftwaffe) wanted to destroy Britain's aeroplanes, so that they could have a clear route in. So, the Germans began bombing British airfields and factories in the early summer of 1940. In September 1940, the Germans bombed British towns and cities in attacks which became known as 'The Blitz'. London was bombed for 57 nights in a row. However, on 15 September 1940, the RAF managed to successfully fight off two massive German attacks. September 15 became known as Battle of Britain Day.	In AD865 an army of Vikings sailed across the North Sea. This time they wanted to conquer land rather than just raid it. Over several years the army battled through northern England, taking control of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and most of Mercia.	Boudica's army launched its attack in 60 AD, when the Roman governor Suetonius Paullinus was called away. Boudica ordered her warriors to burn down Roman towns and kill as many Romans as possible. They destroyed the town of Colchester and then went on to ransack London and St. Albans.
	The Victorians	The Vikings	Stone-Age
Settlement	Many Britons left the UK for North America or the colonies in search of a better life. The Irish poor formed a large number of these migrants, especially after the Irish potato famine in 1845: the Irish moved in large numbers to England and Scotland, as well as abroad. Within the UK as a whole, people moved from the countryside into the new industrial cities to find work.	In Otter Class, children will gain an understanding of the pattern of settlement of the Vikings, use a map as a source of historical information, and appreciate that place names can tell us about the past.	During their study on the Neolithic period, children will learn about The Skara Brae settlement on the Orkney Isles dates from between 3200 and 2700BC.
	The Victorians	Tudor Explorers	Stone, Bronze, Iron Age
Trade	During the Victorian period, Britain was known as the workshop of the world with good reason – its manufactures were sold on every continent. Its mechanical engineering, especially of steam engines, locomotives and ships, was the envy of all. Its factories churned out mass-produced goods, especially ceramics and textiles, for the home and export markets.	In Otter Class, children will learn the Great Fire of London, and will understand that London was the centre of trade at the time and the reasons for this. Viking Trade The Vikings were great explorers and travellers.	Hillforts were built to protect trade routes that spanned into Europe. Ancient Egypt Children will learn how the Egyptian pharaoh Hatshepsut
	New networks of trade developed. Raw cotton from Egypt and the southern states of America was shipped to Liverpool, and then spun and woven in Lancashire. From there, cheap cotton products were exported around the world.	Traders made long journeys overland through Russia, reaching as far south as Constantinople in modern-day Turkey. Some merchants travelled to Baghdad in Iraq. A few daring explorers made voyages to Iceland and beyond, travelling across the Atlantic Ocean to North America. The Vikings traded all over Europe and as far east as Central Asia. They bought goods and materials such as silver, silk, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery. In return, they sold items like honey, tin, wheat, wool, wood, iron, fur, leather, fish and walrus ivory. Viking traders carried a set of folding scales which they used to weigh coins to make sure they got a fair deal.	developed trade routes, leading to a time of prosperity for the Ancient Egyptians.