

Rationale

History is a disciplined process of inquiry into the past that develops students' curiosity and imagination. Awareness of history is an essential characteristic of any society, and historical knowledge is fundamental to understanding ourselves and others. History promotes the understanding of societies, events, movements and developments that have shaped humanity from earliest times. It helps students appreciate how the world and its people have changed, as well as the significant continuities that exist to the present day. History, as a discipline, has its own methods and procedures which make it different from other ways of understanding human experience. The study of history is based on evidence derived from remains of the past. It is interpretative by nature, promotes debate and encourages thinking about human values, including present and future challenges. The process of historical inquiry develops transferable skills such as the ability to ask relevant questions; critically analyse and interpret sources; consider context; respect and explain different perspectives; develop and substantiate interpretations, and communicate effectively.

The 7–10 curriculum generally takes a world history approach within which the history of Australia is taught. It does this to equip students for the world (local, regional and global) in which they live. An understanding of world history enhances students' appreciation of Australian history. It enables them to develop an understanding of the past and present experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, their identities and the continuing value of their cultures. It also helps students to appreciate Australia's distinctive path of social, economic and political development, its position in the Asia and Pacific regions, and its global interrelationships. This knowledge and understanding is essential for informed and active participation in Australia's diverse society and in creating rewarding personal and collective futures.

Year 7 Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 7, students suggest reasons for change and continuity over time. They describe the effects of change on societies, individuals and groups. They describe events and developments from the perspective of different people who lived at the time. Students explain the role of groups and the significance of particular individuals in society. They identify past events and developments that have been interpreted in different ways.

Students sequence events and developments within a chronological framework, using dating conventions to represent and measure time. When researching, students develop questions to frame a historical inquiry. They identify and select a range of sources and locate, compare and use information to answer inquiry questions. They examine sources to explain points of view. When interpreting sources, they identify their origin and purpose. Students develop texts, particularly descriptions and explanations. In developing these texts and organising and presenting their findings, they use historical terms and concepts, incorporate relevant sources, and acknowledge their sources of information.

Aims

The Australian Curriculum: History aims to ensure that students develop:

- interest in, and enjoyment of, historical study for lifelong learning and work, including their capacity and willingness to be informed and active citizens
- knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the past and the forces that shape societies, including Australian society
- understanding and use of historical concepts such as evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, significance, perspectives, empathy and contestability
- capacity to undertake historical inquiry, including skills in the analysis and use of sources, and in explanation and communication.

Key Ideas

Through their learning in each subject or sub-strand, students develop knowledge and understanding relating to broader enduring ideas that underpin the Humanities and Social Sciences in the Australian Curriculum, which are represented in varying ways across the subjects. The key ideas are outlined below:

Who we are, who came before us, and traditions and values that have shaped societies

Students explore their own identity, Australia's heritage and cultural diversity, and Australia's identity as a nation in the world. They examine the significance of traditions and shared values within society.

How societies and economies operate and how they are changing over time

Students learn about Australian society and other societies in the world, both past and present; and how they function socially, culturally, economically and politically. Students examine developments that have resulted in or are bringing about change.

The ways people, places, ideas and events are perceived and connected

Students are provided with opportunities to explore different perceptions of people, places, ideas and events. They develop an understanding of the interdependent nature of the world and the interrelationships within and between the natural environment, human communities and economies. They explore how people, ideas and events are connected over time and increasingly interconnected across local, national, regional and global contexts.

How people exercise their responsibilities, participate in society and make informed decisions

Students examine how individuals and groups have participated in and contributed to society past and present. They examine the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups over time and in different contexts. They develop an understanding of the need to make decisions, the importance of ethical considerations and being informed when making decisions, the processes for decision-making and the implications of decisions that are made for individuals, society, the economy and the environment.

Year 7 Level Description**The ancient world**

The Year 7 curriculum provides a study of history from the time of the earliest human communities to the end of the ancient period, approximately 60 000 BC (BCE) – c.650 AD (CE). It was a period defined by the development of cultural practices and organised societies. The study of the ancient world includes the discoveries (the remains of the past and what we know) and the mysteries (what we do not know) about this period of history, in a range of societies in places including Australia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, India and China.

The content provides opportunities to develop historical understanding through key concepts, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability. These concepts may be investigated within a particular historical context to facilitate an understanding of the past and to provide a focus for historical inquiries.

The history content at this year level involves two strands: historical knowledge and understanding, and historical skills. These strands are interrelated and have been developed to be taught in an integrated way, and in ways that are appropriate to specific local contexts. The order and detail in which they are taught are programming decisions.

Key inquiry questions

A framework for developing students' historical knowledge, understanding and skills is provided by inquiry questions through the use and interpretation of sources. The key inquiry questions for Year 7 are:

- How do we know about the ancient past?
- Why and where did the earliest societies develop?
- What emerged as the defining characteristics of ancient societies?
- What have been the legacies of ancient societies?

Structure

In the Australian Curriculum, the Humanities and Social Sciences learning area comprises five subjects: F–6/7 Humanities and Social Sciences, and Years 7–10 History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business. In all five subjects, the curriculum is organised into two broad interrelated strands: knowledge and understanding, and inquiry and skills.

In the F–6/7 Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum, history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business are presented as sub-strands of the knowledge and understanding strand. In these years, students are introduced to history and geography from Foundation Year, civics and citizenship in Year 3 and economics and business in Year 5. In Years 7–10, the curriculum is organised by subject. In Years 9 and 10, student access to Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business will be determined by school authorities or individual schools.

Year 7 Content Descriptions

| Overview of the ancient world | Investigating the ancient past | The Mediterranean world | The Asian world | History Skills |
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| <p>The following content is to be taught as part of an overview for the historical period. It is not intended to be taught in depth. Overview content identifies important features of the period, approximately 60 000 BC (BCE) – c.650 AD (CE), as part of an expansive chronology that helps students understand broad patterns of historical change. As such, the overview provides the broader context for the teaching of depth study content and can be built into various parts of a teaching and learning program. This means that overview content can be used to give students an introduction to the historical period; to make the links to and between the depth studies; and to consolidate understanding through a review of the period.</p> <p>Overview content for the ancient world (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, Rome, India, China and the Maya) includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the theory that people moved out of Africa around 60 000 BC (BCE) and migrated to other parts of the world, including Australia. the evidence for the emergence and establishment of ancient societies (including art, iconography, writing tools and pottery) key features of ancient societies (farming, trade, social classes, religion, rule of law). <p>Depth studies</p> <p>There are three depth studies for this historical period. For each depth study, there are up to three electives that focus on a particular society, event, movement or development.</p> <p>It is expected that ONE elective will be studied in detail. The content in each depth study elective is designed to allow detailed study of specific aspects of this historical period. As part of a teaching and learning program, depth study content can be integrated with the overview content and/or with other depth study electives.</p> | <p>Students build on and consolidate their understanding of historical inquiry from previous years in depth, using a range of sources for the study of the ancient past.</p> <p>How historians and archaeologists investigate history, including excavation and archival research.</p> <p>The range of sources that can be used in an historical investigation, including archaeological and written sources.</p> <p>Methods and sources used to investigate at least ONE historical controversy or mystery that has challenged historians or archaeologists, such as in the analysis of unidentified human remains.</p> <p>The nature of sources for ancient Australia and what they reveal about Australia's past in the ancient period, such as the use of resources.</p> <p>The importance of conserving the remains of the ancient past, including the heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</p> | <p>Students investigate ONE of these Mediterranean societies in depth: Egypt or Greece or Rome.</p> <p>Egypt</p> <p>Physical features of ancient Egypt (such as the River Nile) and how they influenced the civilisation that developed there.</p> <p>Roles of key groups in ancient Egyptian society (such as the nobility, bureaucracy, women, slaves), including the influence of law and religion.</p> <p>Significant beliefs, values and practices of the ancient Egyptians, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs.</p> <p>Contacts and conflicts within and/or with other societies, resulting in developments such as the conquest of other lands, the expansion of trade, and peace treaties.</p> <p>The role of a significant individual in ancient Egyptian history such as Hatshepsut or Ramses II.</p> <p>Greece</p> <p>Physical features of ancient Greece (such as its mountainous landscape) and how they influenced the civilisation that developed there.</p> <p>Roles of key groups in Athenian and/or Spartan society (such as citizens, women, slaves), including the influence of law and religion.</p> <p>Significant beliefs, values and practices of the ancient Greeks, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs.</p> <p>Contacts and conflicts within and/or with other societies, resulting in developments such as the expansion of trade, colonisation and war (such as the Peloponnesian and Persian wars).</p> <p>The role of a significant individual in ancient Greek history such as Leonidas or Pericles.</p> <p>Rome</p> <p>Physical features of ancient Rome (such as the River Tiber) and how they influenced the civilisation that developed there.</p> <p>Roles of key groups in ancient Roman society (such as patricians, plebeians, women, slaves), including the influence of law and religion.</p> <p>Significant beliefs, values and practices of the ancient Romans, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs.</p> <p>Contacts and conflicts within and/or with other societies, resulting in developments such as the expansion of trade, the rise of the Roman empire (including its material remains), and the spread of religious beliefs.</p> <p>The role of a significant individual in ancient Rome's history such as Julius Caesar or Augustus.</p> | <p>Students investigate ONE of these Asian societies in depth: India or China.</p> <p>India</p> <p>Physical features of India (such as fertile river plains) and how they influenced the civilisation that developed there.</p> <p>Roles of key groups in Indian society in this period (such as kings, emperors, priests, merchants, peasants), including the influence of law and religion.</p> <p>Significant beliefs, values and practices of Indian society, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs.</p> <p>Contacts and conflicts within and/or with other societies, resulting in developments such as the expansion of trade, the rise of the Mauryan Empire (including its material remains), and the spread of philosophies and beliefs.</p> <p>The role of a significant individual in Indian history such as Chandragupta Maurya or Ashoka.</p> <p>China</p> <p>Physical features of China (such as the Yellow River) and how they influenced the civilisation that developed there.</p> <p>Roles of key groups in Chinese society in this period (such as kings, emperors, scholars, craftsmen, women), including the influence of law and religion.</p> <p>Significant beliefs, values and practices of Chinese society, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs.</p> <p>Contacts and conflicts within and/or with other societies, resulting in developments such as the expansion of trade, the rise of Imperial China (including its material remains), and the spread of philosophies and beliefs.</p> <p>The role of a significant individual in ancient Chinese history such as Confucius or Qin Shi Huang.</p> | <p>Chronology, terms and concepts</p> <p>Sequence historical events, developments and periods</p> <p>Use historical terms and concepts.</p> <p>Historical questions and research</p> <p>Identify a range of questions about the past to inform a historical inquiry.</p> <p>Analyse and use of sources</p> <p>Identify and locate relevant sources, using ICT and other methods.</p> <p>Identify the origin and purpose of primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>Locate, compare, select and use information from a range of sources as evidence.</p> <p>Draw conclusions about the usefulness of sources.</p> <p>Perspectives and interpretations</p> <p>Identify and describe points of view, attitudes and values in primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>Explanation and communication</p> <p>Develop texts, particularly descriptions and explanations that use evidence from a range of sources that are acknowledged.</p> <p>Use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies.</p> |