



Stronger Together

The Federation of
Chislet Church of England Primary and Hoath Primary Schools

History Skills Glossary

Subject skill	Exemplification
Recognise	Name and point out who or what something is e.g. a tree in the school grounds or a Queen being crowned in a painting.
Identify	Distinguish something or someone from others that may be similar e.g. oak trees from other trees in a wood or a castle from the buildings that surround it.
Describe	'Say what you see'. Give an account in words of something or someone e.g. an erupting volcano or some of the events leading up to the sinking of the Titanic.
Observe	Identify and distinguish with a degree of analysis some things that may potentially be more noteworthy or important than others e.g. the number and size of Spanish galleons in a painting of the Armada compared with the ships of the English navy, or that some places along a coast are being eroded by the sea faster than others.
Select	Decide upon and choose that information considered most suitable or relevant to answer a question e.g. from a range of eight possibilities select three factors more likely than the others to have caused the Great Fire of London to spread so quickly or the three most significant factors causing annual flooding in Bangladesh.
Categorise/Classify	Arrange information into particular groups according to shared qualities or characteristics e.g. creating two sets of the potential advantages and disadvantages of building a new international airport in London or sorting photographs depicting the lives of different social classes in Victorian Britain into different collections.
Sequence	Place a set of related events or things that follow each other into an order e.g. the events leading up to William the Conqueror invading England or a timeline of devastating bushfires in Australia.
Compare and contrast	Find similarities and differences e.g. between the geography of the local area of the pupil's school and that of the immediate environment surrounding a similar sized school in Borneo, or the ways of life of people living in the New Stone Age compared with how many lived in the Old Stone Age.
Recall	Remember and recount something learned or experienced e.g. recollect from visits the main reasons why Warwick Castle was built where it is or how a local river changes from its source to mouth.
Reason/speculate	Thinking and forming ideas about something without necessarily firm evidence yet to back it up – conjecture, supposition, guessing e.g. why Iron Age people in Britain built so many hill forts and compounds or why earthquakes are generally more hazardous to people around the world than volcanoes.
Summarise	Outline or sum up briefly the main points about something e.g. how Fair Trade works or the main factors leading up to all women over the age of 21 years old receiving the vote in 1928.

Synthesise	Bring together a range of ideas and facts from different sources to develop an argument or explanation for something e.g. the deforestation of tropical rain forests or why life expectancy in Britain remained less than 40 years until around 1800.
Explain	Demonstrate understanding and comprehension of how or why something is the way it is as a result of synthesising information (see above) e.g. why most of the great stone cities of the Maya were abandoned by AD 900 or why competing demands make managing Britain's National Parks a challenge.
Empathise	The capacity to place oneself impartially in another's position to better understand their motives, decisions and actions (even if they are not shared values) from their perspective e.g. the life of Native American Arctic whale hunters or why Elizabeth I encouraged privateers to attack, rob and sink foreign ships wherever they could be found.
Informed conclusion	A knowledgeable summing up of the main points or issues about something e.g. why there are increasing numbers of wind and solar farms to be seen in Britain or some of the benefits and disadvantages of the British Empire over time.
Reasoned judgement	A personal view or opinion about something supported by factual evidence e.g. an argument for banning all single use plastic or the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan in 1945.
Justify	Give reasons to show or prove what you feel to be right or reasonable e.g. which of the many medical advances of the 19 th century was most significant and why or what should be done to reduce virtual water use by people in the UK.
Apply	The transfer of knowledge and/or skills learned in one context to a different context e.g. awareness that the process of river erosion by bank undercutting is the same as the erosion of coastal cliffs by waves and recognising that the causes of wars or invasions are much the same down the centuries.
Evaluate	Weigh up and judge the relative importance of something in relation to counter ideas and arguments e.g. the costs and benefits of planting 1.5 billion trees in Britain or consider which factor was most significant in the Roman invasion of Britain.
Critique	Review and examine something critically particularly to gain an awareness of its limitations as evidence e.g. how reliable is the Bayeux tapestry as a description of the events of the Norman conquest and why might the imagery on a website promoting a location as a holiday destination not be entirely reliable?
Hypothesise	Come up with an idea, question or theory that can be investigated to see whether it has any validity e.g. that in Ancient Egypt Tutankhamun was murdered or that ice sheets could be towed from Antarctica to reduce water shortages in southern Africa.