



junior cycle history

A Brief Look at Historical Eras


The Prehistoric Era (2.6 mya - 500 BCE)

 **Palaeolithic Era (2.6 million years ago - 10,000 BCE):** Known as the Old Stone Age, humans lived as hunter-gatherers and made use of stone tools.

Mesolithic Era (10,000 BCE - 4000 BCE): A transitional period known as the Middle Stone Age, characterised by the development of more sophisticated stone tools and the beginnings of settled communities.


 **Neolithic Era (4000 BCE - 2000 BCE):** The New Stone Age, marked by the invention of agriculture, the domestication of animals, and the development of permanent settlements.

Bronze Age (3300 BCE - 1200 BCE): During this time, humans learned to smelt and cast metal (bronze), leading to advancements in tools, weapons, and art.


 **Iron Age (1200 BCE - 500 BCE):** This period saw the widespread use of iron and steel tools, the growth of complex societies, and the rise of early written languages.

Classical Antiquity (550 BCE - 476 CE)


Persian Empire (550 BCE - 330 BCE): An expansive and culturally diverse empire, the Persian Empire was known for its administrative efficiency and road system.

 **Classical Greece (480 BCE - 338 BCE):** This era gave rise to significant developments in philosophy, politics, and arts, epitomized by thinkers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.


Macedonian Era (338 BCE - 323 BCE): Marked by the reign of Alexander the Great and the expansion of Hellenistic culture through his conquests.

 **Hellenistic Greece (323 BCE - 146 BCE):** Following Alexander's death, Greek culture spread and mixed with Eastern cultures, leading to significant developments in science, arts, and philosophy.

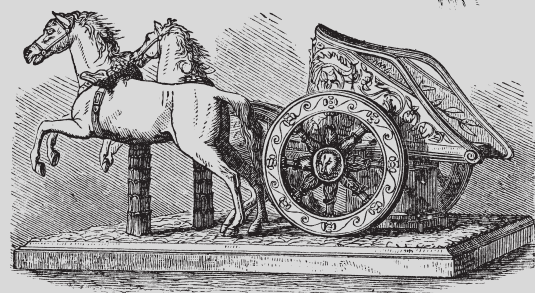
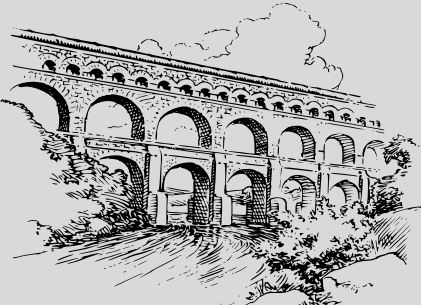
Late Roman Republic (147 BCE - 27 BCE): A period of political and social unrest, culminating in the rise of Julius Caesar and the end of the Roman Republic.

 **Principate of the Roman Empire (27 BCE - 235 CE):** Characterised by the rule of the first Roman emperors, starting with Augustus Caesar, it was a time of relative peace and prosperity known as Pax Romana.

Crisis of the Third Century (235 CE - 284 CE): The Roman Empire faced invasions, economic depression, and a series of short-lived emperors.

 **Dominate of the Roman Empire (284 CE - 476 CE):** A period of imperial consolidation and increased authoritarianism, leading up to the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

Late Antiquity (284 CE - 500 CE): Transition period between the classical world and the Middle Ages, characterised by the decline of the Western Roman Empire and the rise of Christianity.



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Migration Period and Early Middle Ages (300 CE - 1066)



Migration Period (300 CE - 700 CE): Also known as the Barbarian Invasions, various Germanic peoples moved into and established kingdoms within the Roman Empire.

Byzantine Era (330 CE - 1453 CE): Eastern continuation of the Roman Empire, marked by Greek language and Christian religion, it preserved and passed on ancient knowledge.



Early Middle Ages/Dark Ages (500 CE - 1066 CE): After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Europe experienced cultural and economic decline along with increased warfare.

Viking Age (793 CE - 1066 CE): Scandinavian seafarers explored, raided, and traded across wide areas of Europe, Asia, and the North Atlantic islands during this period.



The Middle Ages (1066-1500)



High Middle Ages (1066 CE - 1300 CE): Marked by population growth, increased agricultural production, the start of Gothic architecture, and the Crusades.

Late Middle Ages (1300 CE - 1500 CE): Characterised by the Hundred Years War, the plague, the rise of nation-states, and the beginning of the Renaissance in Italy.

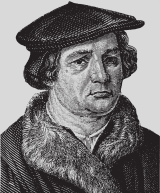


Early Modern Period (1500 - 1800)



The Renaissance (1400 CE - 1700 CE): A period of cultural, artistic, political, and economic rebirth, beginning in Italy and spreading throughout Europe.

Age of Discovery/Exploration (15th - 17th centuries): Europe's exploration of the world by sea led to a new understanding of geography and the widespread overseas colonization.



Protestant Reformation (1517 CE - 1648 CE): Initiated by Martin Luther, it led to a schism within Christianity and ultimately changed the course of Western Christianity.

Tudor Period (1485 CE - 1603 CE): The Tudor dynasty in England and Wales led to significant changes in religion and the monarchy.



Elizabethan Era (1558 CE - 1603 CE): The reign of Queen Elizabeth I was considered a golden age in English history, notable for its music, literature, and exploration.

Stuart Period (1603 CE - 1714 CE): Characterised by religious and political upheaval in England, Scotland, and Ireland, culminating in the English Civil War, Interregnum, and Restoration.



Jacobean Era (1603 CE - 1625 CE): The reign of King James I of England, known for the King James Bible and the works of William Shakespeare.

Caroline Era (1625 CE - 1649 CE): The reign of Charles I, leading up to the English Civil War.



English Commonwealth (1649 CE - 1660 CE): (1649 CE - 1660 CE): A period without a monarch, where England became a Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell.

Stuart Restoration (1660 CE - 1714 CE): The return of Charles II to the throne after the Interregnum, leading to the restoration of the monarchy.



Carolean Era (1660 CE - 1685 CE): The reign of Charles II, marked by the restoration of the monarchy and significant cultural development.



Age of Enlightenment (18th century): Intellectual and philosophical movement that dominated Europe, emphasizing reason, analysis, and individualism over traditional doctrine.

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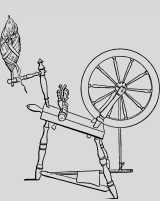
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Late Modern Period (1800-1945)

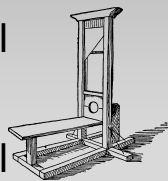


Georgian Era (1714 CE - 1830 CE): Britain's era marked by the reigns of the first four Hanoverian kings of Britain who were all named George.

Age of Revolutions (1764 CE - 1850 CE): A period of political upheaval around the world, most notably in France and the Americas.



Industrial Revolution (1760 CE - 1840 CE): Period of rapid industrial growth, transforming largely agrarian, rural societies into industrial and urban ones.



Napoleonic Era (1804 CE - 1815 CE): The period of Napoleon Bonaparte's rule over France, marked by territorial expansion, war, and the implementation of various civil reforms.



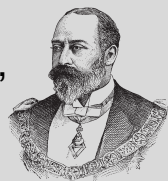
Romantic Era (1800 CE - 1850 CE): An artistic, literary, and intellectual movement that emphasized emotion and individualism, glorifying nature, and preference for the medieval rather than the classical.

Victorian Era (1837 CE - 1901 CE): The period of Queen Victoria's reign, marked by industrial growth, colonial expansion, and social reforms.



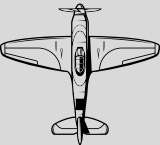
Second Industrial Revolution (1860 CE - 1914 CE): A phase of rapid industrialization, marked by the spread of railroads, innovative technologies, and new energy sources.

Edwardian Era (1901 CE - 1914 CE): The reign of King Edward VII, characterised by luxury and technological progress in Britain.



World War I (1914 CE - 1918 CE): A global conflict centred in Europe, marked by trench warfare, new military technology, and unprecedented casualties.

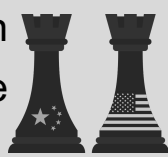
Interwar Period (1918 CE - 1939 CE): The period between the end of World War I and the start of World War II, marked by global economic depression and the rise of totalitarian regimes.



World War II (1939 CE - 1945 CE): The most widespread global conflict in history, involving over 30 nations and resulting in over 70 million casualties.

Contemporary History (1945 - Present)

Cold War (1945 CE - 1991 CE): A period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States and their respective allies, marked by political, military, and economic confrontations.



Nuclear Age (1945 CE - Present): The era marked by the proliferation and threat of nuclear weapons.

Space Age (1957 CE - Present): The era of space exploration and technological advancements, initiated by the launch of Sputnik by the USSR.



Post-Cold War Era (1991 CE - Present): The period after the end of the Cold War, characterised by two superpowers, the United States and the USSR, and increased globalization.

Information Age (1970 CE - Present): The era marked by the shift from traditional industries to an economy based on information technology.



Digital Age/Social Age (1990 CE - Present): Characterised by the rapid shift from traditional industry to an economy based on the dissemination of information and the prevalence of digital and social media.



JUNIOR CYCLE HISTORY

Role of the Historian

Historians investigate the past.

Historians gather evidence from different sources.

Sources can be primary or secondary.

Sources can be categorised into five types:

Written: Diaries, letters, emails, autobiographies, biographies, government records.

Visual: Photographs, posters, cartoons, art, maps, documentary films.

Aural: Recorded interviews, podcasts and speeches.

Oral: Interviews carried out by the researcher.

Tactile: Artefacts and handling boxes

Historians visit libraries, archives and museums.

They read books, find information online, examine artefacts and interview people.

Historians cross-check their findings and judge how accurate the information is.

Historians watch out for bias, exaggeration or propaganda.

Historians put events into the order in which they happen to create the story of the past, using timelines.

If new evidence comes to light, historians may see an event or period of time that we thought we understood in a new light. This is called reinterpretation.

Role of the Archaeologist

Archaeologists excavate historical sites.

Ruins and old buildings: Sometimes these are still visible and it can be decided that they might be worth a closer look.

An aerial photograph help us ancient structures that may not be seen at ground level.

Research archaeology: primary sources such as documents, maps and other records might reveal that a building or structure once existed on the site which might prompt archaeologists to investigate.

Rescue archaeology: Before one can get planning permission for a new road or building, one has to make sure there is no evidence on the site that will be lost forever.

Accident: Sometimes archaeologists sites are discovered purely by accident. For example, the Ardagh Chalice was found by accident when a farmer was ploughing his field.

When they find a site to excavate, archaeologists:

1. Carry out a **survey** to see if the site is worth excavating.
2. Dig **test trenches**; a sample hole dug to see if there is anything of interest present and judge if it is worth excavating the whole site.
3. Remove the **topsoil** (the topmost, most recent layer of soil) using a digger or pick axe.
4. Dig very carefully to make sure they do not damage anything, using **trowels** and **shovels** for smaller amounts of soil.
5. Use **brushes** to remove soil delicately from any objects found.
6. Use **sieves** to ensure nothing is thrown away in the soil.
7. **Record** the position of every artefact found – everything is carefully drawn and photographed.
8. **Catalogue** the details of each artefact on **computers** and in the excavation's **site book**.
9. Put the artefacts into separate, labelled bags and then boxes which are numbered and sent to **laboratories** for tests.
10. Once the tests are finished, artefacts are usually brought to **museums** where they can be **displayed** for people to learn from.

Archaeologists use various skills and methods which include: Radio-Carbon Dating; Geophysical Surveying; Pollen Analysis; Stratigraphy; Dendrochronology; DNA Testing, 3D Reconstruction and Bones; Conservation