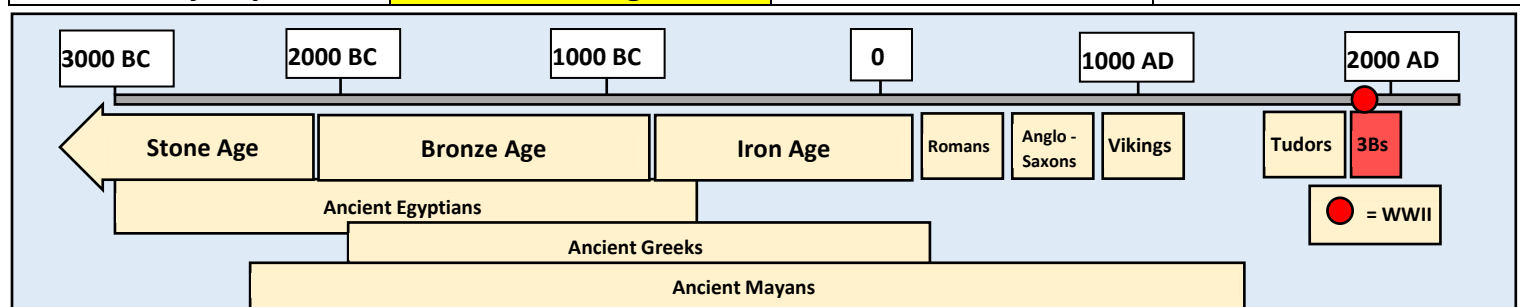




Birch Copse Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

History Topic:	Reading	Year 5	Summer
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History of Reading – The rise and fall of the 3Bs

Timeline

1723	The Kennet Navigation opens the River Kennet so boats can travel between Reading and Newbury.
1785	William Blackall Simonds (WB Simonds) founds the Simonds Brewery on Broad Street.
1789	Simonds Brewery moves to Seven Bridges Street.
1806	Suttons Seeds is founded by John Sutton.
1810	The Kennet and Avon Canal opens so boats can travel from Reading to the Bristol channel.
1814	W. B. Simonds' eldest son, Blackall, takes over.
1822	Joseph Huntley and his son Thomas open a small bakery on London Street.
1832	John Sutton is joined by his 2 sons in the business.
1836	John's son Martin becomes a partner in the business changing the name to Sutton & Son.
1837	The business moves to the Market Place.
1840	The Great western railway opens with a station in Reading putting it on the main line between London and Bristol.
1841	George Palmer comes to Reading to join his cousin Thomas Huntley and work in the bakery business.
1834	Blackall retires and his brothers, Henry and George take over the brewery and open more pubs.
1846	The price of wheat falls, so Huntley & Palmers open a factory on Kings Road, making lots more biscuits.
1849	The South Eastern railway opens, with service going from Reading Station.
1851	Rural to urban migration now results in over half of Britain's population now living in towns or cities.
1856	The London and South Western railway opens, with service going from Reading Station.
1873	Suttons seeds open new offices and warehouses in Reading to meet the growing demand. They are so large they even have their own fire station.
1894	Huntley & Palmers now employs over 5,000 people.
1960	Courage brewery take over H&G Simmonds.
1962	Sutton Seeds moves to new buildings on the London to Bath Road.
1972	Huntley & Palmers announce Kings Road factory will close as it's too small for the level of biscuit production needed.
1976	The Kings road biscuit factory is closed.
1976	Suttons Seeds moves to Torquay, as they cannot find enough staff to run the business.
1978	H&G Simmonds move out of their town centre brewery to Worton Grange near Junction 11 of the M4.
2010	The Worton Grange brewery is closed.

As Reading grew as a town, so did it transport links and **businesses**. Reading became famous for the '3Bs'.

Biscuits	Bulbs	Beer
Huntley & Palmers	Suttons Seeds	H&G Simmonds
		

Key Vocabulary

Brewery	The place where beer is made
Business	An organisation that sells a product to make money
Employ	Give work to and pay someone
Founded	When an organisation or business is started
Manufacture	Making many of one product using machinery
Migration	People moving from one area to another
Population	The amount of people living in an area
Product	The item that a company makes to sell
Warehouse	A large building where materials or products are stored

Key people

George Palmer	One of the founders of the Huntley and Palmer Biscuits business
Thomas Huntley	One of the founders of the Huntley and Palmer Biscuits business
William Blackall Simonds	The founder of H & G Simmonds Brewery
John Sutton	The founder of Sutton & Son seed business

Key Questions

- Why did people decide to settle in Reading?
- Why do you think many businesses in Reading grew into much larger businesses?
- Why do you think that Reading has continued to grow in size and has changed the main industry within the town, whilst other towns have not grown as much?



Huntley & Palmers
Biscuit
Factory
1905