



THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Interesting times; a pandemic, economic challenges, entertainment curtailed, centres of learning impacted, public worship suspended, travel severely limited, people confined, families divided, food shortages, innovative ideas, scientific discoveries, technological advances, reappraisal of values, societal shifts, truth and lies.....

Is this 2020, or 1348 or 1665 or 1918 – or all of them perhaps? All, many or some of the above descriptions fit throughout history.

Not much is 'new' then; and yet so much is. Our world is not the fourteenth century or the seventeenth; we live very different lives in a very different world.... and yet we wonder at the similarities while we contemplate the changes. History, the past, is ever present. This is what makes it such a fascinating, illuminating, useful and rewarding subject.

The History department have been sharing their ideas for how to use the time in 'lockdown' to explore the subject more widely on a variety of levels.

Browse the list below and you will find ideas to challenge, to educate, to entertain and to fascinate; some very academically focused, some for a more general audience, some very serious and some more light-hearted, some linked to the curriculum, some exploiting the chance to head in new directions.

We have grouped our suggestions and activities as follows:

- 1 Read
- 2 Watch
- 3 Listen
- 4 Browse
- 5 Holidays
- 6 Visits
- 7 Courses
- 8 Local History
- 9 Family History
- 10 School History

Read



You have your text books and your reading lists but beyond those fiction can be a wonderful and entertaining entry to the past. Here are some History Department recommendations; some of which, with teacher reviews, are currently on the History display board shown above.

We cannot stress enough the value and pleasure to be got from reading.

If you really do not think fiction is for you there are plenty of history books to read; we include a few titles on the list set out below. In addition more recent recommendations of books published last year can be found [here](#):

<https://www.historyextra.com/magazine/history-books-year-2019-christmas-gift-guide>

you can browse the great collection of reviews compiled by the Institute of Historical Research here:

<https://blog.history.ac.uk/category/ihr-publications/reviews-in-history/>

Now is the time to indulge, enjoy and escape.

Recommended for older pupils - and parents!

***All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque**

The classic 'anti war' novel remains a powerful, yet understated account of the First World war through the eyes of a group young German soldiers who join up together, based on the first hand experience of the author. A short novel that lives long in the memory.

***Birdsong*, Sebastian Faulks**

The story of Stephen a British soldier, as explored by his granddaughter years later. The novel succeeds particularly well in conveying the experience of soldiers on the front line and the underground war that was such a significant part of trench warfare on the western front. A good one for anyone who has visited or wishes to tour the Battlefields of World War One.

***Regeneration*, Pat Barker**

Based on the meeting at Craiglockhart War Hospital between Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen this book gives an interesting insight into the effects of shellshock and the work of the pioneering psychiatrist William Rivers.

***Munich*, Robert Harris**

An exploration of Appeasement and the Munich Conference of 1938 told through the gripping and fascinating story of two of key participants in this well researched fictionalised account. A good read for all but recommended particularly for GCSE pupils.

***The Cruel Sea*, Nicholas Monserrat**

Based on the author's experiences in the Battle of the Atlantic this is the classic tale of the Second World War at Sea. Experience life in the corvettes that protected the Atlantic convoys in a moving yet unsentimental tribute to the men who served in the Royal Navy. The details, drama and characters of the story are wonderfully drawn.

***The Caine Mutiny*, Herman Wouk**

Whereas *The Cruel Sea* deals with the war in the Atlantic this is the story of life on a US navy warship and the war in the Pacific. Captain Queeg is in charge of the USS Caine when after a series of incidents he is relieved of command by senior officers. As well as presenting a gripping narrative the book raises moral and ethical questions; was Queeg insane and endangering his men or did he deserve the loyalty and support of his men who failed to respond to a cry for help? It is a fascinating story raising complex questions, slick dialogue, set pieces, well drawn characters; all in all a very entertaining read.

***Fatherland*, Robert Harris**

A detective story set in Berlin 1964, in a Germany based on the supposition that Germany won the war. Hitler's 75th birthday approaches and the discovery of a body is going to spark political scandal and danger.

***SS GB*, Len Deighton**

What if Germany had succeeded in invading Britain? It is 1941 the King is held hostage, Churchill has been executed by a firing squad and the SS are in charge. For nine months Britain has been occupied - a blitzed, depressed and dingy country. However, it's 'business as usual' at Scotland Yard run by the SS when Detective Inspector Archer is assigned to a routine murder case. But when SS Standartenfuhrer Huth arrives from Berlin with orders from the great Himmler himself to supervise the investigation, the resourceful Archer finds himself caught up in a high level, all action, espionage battle.

***Alone in Berlin*, Hans Fallada**

Inspired by a true story this is the gripping tale of an ordinary man's determination to defy the tyranny of Nazi rule. Berlin, 1940, and the city is filled with fear. At the house on 55 Jablonski Strasse, its various occupants try to live under Nazi rule in their different ways. When the Quangel family receive the news that their beloved son has been killed fighting in France they begin a silent campaign of defiance, and a deadly game of cat and mouse develops between the Quangels and the ambitious Gestapo inspector Escherich.

***The Collini Case*, Ferdinand von Schirach**

For thirty four years Fabrizio Collini has worked diligently for Mercedes-Benz. He is quiet and respectable person until the day he visits one of Berlin's most luxurious hotels and kills an innocent man. The story centres around the defence lawyer in the case who discovers a connection with the accused and finds himself wrestling with moral issues far beyond his own personal history. The truth lies in events of World War II and has extraordinary implications for the German legal system. This is a gripping and thought provoking read.

***Dissolution* by C J Sansom**

The first of the Shardlake series in which the Tudor lawyer finds himself caught up in an investigation into murder during the dissolution of the monasteries. The Shardlake books combine gripping plots, vivid scenes, well-researched history, and a cast of characters - real and imagined - that bring this period in history to life. The series is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in Tudor England.

Blood and Beauty, Sarah Dunant

This novel and the sequel, *In the Name of the Father*, capture the spirit of Renaissance Rome under the Borgias. We see the political machinations of Pope Alexander VI, the cruelty of Cesare and feel sympathy for Lucrezia, often the pawn in their politics and plots.

Pure, Andrew Milller

Based on a true event – the excavation of Les Innocents Cemetery and the creation of the Paris catacombs - this is an exciting imagining of how that might have happened, involving, murder, suicide and violence. This is a page turner giving a fascinating insight into Paris on the verge of the French Revolution and features 'cameos' from famous figures.

An Officer and a Spy Robert Harris

The Dreyfus affair is the context of this absorbing and poignant novel. The political and judicial scandal that divided France is re-examined in this thrilling tale of intrigue, secrets and morality.

Hard Times, Charles Dickens

A study of a northern industrial town in the 1840s, of the physical world of factories and new money, but also of ideas. In the industrialist Mr Gradgrind we have the embodiment of utilitarianism, of an obsession for facts, details and the bottom line. Its limitations are exposed through his children who are ill prepared for their challenges. Read for the descriptions, comedy and insights to what life was like; but also for the polemic against ideas which squeeze out compassion.

Uneasy Lies the Head, Jean Plaidy

For anyone who likes a dose of old style historical fiction, Jean Plaidy can be relied upon for a well-paced narrative, political intrigue, a dash of romance, a good plot and plenty of period detail. The period settings provide a good feel for the times, little snippets of useful knowledge and an avenue for historical imagination. That her novels have recently been republished is testimony to their enduring appeal.

Some that are not strictly fiction, but read like fiction

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania, Erik Larson

A captivating story of the final voyage of The Lusitania in 1915. Larson deftly weaves together many narrative threads following Captain Turner of the Lusitania and Schweiger the U Boat Captain, President Wilson, First Lord Churchill, the British Intelligence Office and some of the fascinating passengers while fitting it into the broader picture of World War I; done brilliantly with amusing, sad and inspiring vignettes from the journey.

The House by the Lake, Thomas Harding

In the summer of 1993, Thomas Harding travelled to Germany with his grandmother to visit a small house by a lake on the outskirts of Berlin which had been a holiday home for her and her family. In the 1930s she had been forced to leave the house, fleeing to England as the Nazis swept to power. This is the story of how the house was saved from ruin but much more it is the story of a house through five generations; a house that tells the story of Germany.

Operation Mincemeat by Ben McIntyre

One April morning in 1943, a sardine fisherman spotted the corpse of a British soldier floating in the sea off the coast of Spain. Operation Mincemeat was the most successful wartime deception ever attempted, and certainly the strangest. This true story is so unbelievable it has to be believed! The cast of characters so extraordinary they couldn't be made up! If you enjoy this you are in for a treat with other great reads by Ben McIntyre such as *Agent ZigZag*, *The SAS; Rogue Heroes*, *The Spy and the Traitor* and more.

The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund De Waal

A memorable sweep across twentieth century history through the story one family and a collection of netsuke first purchased in 1870 in Paris. Telling the story of a wealthy Jewish family from Paris, to Vienna, through the war and afterwards.

The Spy who Loved by Clare Mulley

Apparently Churchill's favourite spy and the inspiration for Vesper Lynd in the first James Bond book Krystyna Skarbek, aka Christine Granville led an extraordinary life recounted in this fascinating, gripping and absorbing read.

The Historical Association List

For Key Stage Three (and all ages) here are some recommendations from the Historical Association, including some history department favourites (we look forward to comparing our views with pupils when school resumes).

<https://www.history.org.uk/secondary/news/3700/historical-fiction-list>

Watch

Films, series and documentaries

There are so many historical films, series and documentaries. Here are a few – be advised some will have age restrictions. Some of these are easily available, others more limited release -they may be available at other sources than those suggested - but all in all plenty to consider here.

Here are just a few recommendations:

Civilisation (documentary) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00dtjbv/civilisation>

Ground breaking BBC TV series presented by art historian Kenneth Clark- a personal view of how Western Europe evolved after the collapse of the Roman Empire and produced the ideas, books, buildings, works of art and great individuals that make up a civilisation.

Civilisations (documentary) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p05xxp5j/civilisations>

Inspired by art historian Kenneth Clark's documentary series of the 1960s, 'Civilisations' sees three experts travel the world to explore human creativity and the development of art through the ages. From the ancient city of Petra in Jordan to the wondrous temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, presenters Simon Schama, David Olusoga and Mary Beard visit over 30 countries, sharing their scholarly knowledge and their own perspectives on the idea of civilisations. The influence of culture and religion on various art forms is also studied in each episode.

Thirteen Days (film) (Nextflix)

Day by day the tension increases as the world waits on the brink of nuclear war in the stand-off between USSR and USA in the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Recommended in particular for GCSE history pupils as a good link to the Cold War part of the course.

Chernobyl (TV series) (HBO, Sky Atlantic)

In 26 April 1986, a safety test at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine went catastrophically wrong. The plant's No4 reactor exploded, an accident that spewed nuclear contamination across Europe. What would it have been like to be on the ground, living through these events as they happened? Those who lives we glimpse include firefighters who were first responders and miners who had to dig beneath the facility.

The Vietnam War (documentary series) (Netflix)

Ken Burns' epic chronicle of the Vietnam War, featuring the soldiers, protesters, politicians and families who lived it. Recommended in particular for GCSE history pupils as good background to the Cold War part of the course.

Sophie Scholl (film) (Netflix, Prime)

Based on the true story of students Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans who were active in the White Rose movement against the Nazis. A powerful and moving film giving a strong sense of life and the dangers of resistance under the Nazis.

The Crown (TV series) (Netflix)

The acclaimed TV series following the life of Elizabeth II has much to offer anyone interested in the history of the twentieth century, royalist or not. The background context is an interesting, well acted and no expense spared dramatisation of some key moments of history told from the perspective of the royal family.

Vikings (series) (Netflix)

In AD 793, northern raiders sacked the monastery at Lindisfarne, an event now taken to mark the beginning of the Viking Age. It's also the starting point for this six-season drama that follows the exploits of Viking chieftain Ragnar Lothbrok and his crew, and in later seasons Ragnar's descendants as well. The show draws extensively on chronicles written later and also on contemporary historical sources, which isn't in any way to suggest it's somehow didactic. Rather, this is blood-and-thunder entertainment that's not for the squeamish.

Young Victoria (film) (Netflix)

The film portrays the years before Queen Victoria's accession. It gives an interesting portrayal into the customs and expectations of life at Kensington Palace and introduces some of the figures who were to be influential in Victoria's life and reign.

Darkest Hour (film) (Netflix)

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill is faced with a tough choice as he must decide whether to sign a peace treaty with Adolf Hitler's Germany or continue fighting the war against them.

World War II in Colour (TV series) (Netflix)

The World at War (TV series) (Prime, you tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b4g4ZZNC1E>)

The definitive series covering the war from all sides with first hand testimony and a wealth of archive material, narrated by Laurence Olivier. Watch the entire series over time, or choose episodes of particular interest.

Women at war 1914-1918 (Netflix)

Trace the overlapping journeys of exceptional women swept up in World War I and hear their tales of bravery on history's front lines.

Women at war 1939-1945 (Netflix)

Mothers, nurses, soldiers and deportees -- these women fought against persecution for freedom and survival amid the turbulence of World War II.

Five came back (documentary) (Netflix)

In the wake of the USA entering the Second World War, Hollywood swung into action to support the war effort. Leading directors John Ford, William Wyler, John Huston, Frank Capra and George Stevens enlisted in the armed forces to document the war.

Peterloo (film) (Netflix)

On Monday 16 August 1819, a crowd of between 60,000 and 80,000 people gathered at St Peter's Field in Manchester to demand electoral reform and the extension of the franchise. The actions of the authorities would become infamous after cavalrymen charged the gathering, leaving 18 dead and hundreds injured. Mike Leigh's drama.

Downfall (film) (Prime)

Bruno Ganz plays Hitler as a sick man raging at what's happening and yet utterly unable to take responsibility for what's become of his country.

The Lives of Others (film) (Netflix, Prime)

In 1983 East Berlin, dedicated Stasi officer Gerd Wiesler doubting that a famous playwright is loyal to the Communist Party, receives approval to spy on the man and his actress-lover Christa-Maria). Wiesler becomes unexpectedly sympathetic to the couple, then faces conflicting loyalties when his superior takes a liking to Christa-Maria and orders Wiesler to get the playwright out of the way.

Good bye Lenin (film) (Netflix)

In October 1989, right before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Alex Kerner (is living with his mother, and sister,. But when the mother, a loyal party member, sees Alex participating in an anti-communist rally, she falls into a coma and misses the revolution. After she wakes, doctors say any jarring event could make her have a heart attack, meaning the family must go to great lengths to pretend communism still reigns in Berlin.

Dunkirk (film) (Netflix, Prime)

Latest telling of the famous evacuation during World War II as soldiers from the British Empire, Belgium and France try to get out of Dunkirk.

Twelve years a Slave (film) (Netflix, Prime)

Twelve Years a Slave is a biographical film based on the 1853 slave memoir by Solomon Northup, a New York State-born free African-American man who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. by two conmen in 1841 and sold into slavery. Northup was put to work on plantations in the state of Louisiana for 12 years before being released. The film is a powerful testimony to his experience.

Amazing Grace (film) (Netflix)

Film about the campaign against the slave trade in the British Empire, led by William Wilberforce, who was responsible for steering anti-slave trade legislation through the British parliament. The title is a reference to the hymn "Amazing Grace". The film also recounts the experiences of John Newton as a crewman on a slave ship and subsequent religious conversion, which inspired his writing of the poem later used in the hymn.

Babylon Berlin (TV series) (Netflix)

An extraordinary drama, based on the book of the same name, that vividly brings to life the nervy, paranoid interwar world of the Weimar Republic era.

Monarchy (documentary) (you tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4L675hROFE>)

The USA version gives a condensed overview of the English monarchy presented in an easily digestible format by David Starkey. Good background watch for GCSE power unit.

Blood and Gold, the making of Spain (documentary)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b06rwwdf/blood-and-gold-the-making-of-spain-with-simon-sebag-montefiore>

England's Forgotten Queen (documentary)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b09ltzsm/englands-forgotten-queen-the-life-and-death-of-lady-jane-grey>

Inside the Medieval Mind (documentary)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00b0wj7/inside-the-medieval-mind>

Das Boot (TV series) (sky)

Life on a German submarine in World War II which became something of a cult classic

Listen

Why not listen to leading academics, scholars and broadcasters talking and debating on matters historical.

Gresham Lectures – <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures>

Here you will find wealth of lectures to listen to and scripts to download on all sorts of topics. Here are some history ones to consider; some are single lectures and others form part of a series you could follow over time:

Art and Power

Atrocities and Religion in European Memory

World War I Ending and Aftermath

Martin Luther and his Crusade against the Pope

Migration: A historical perspective

History at a turning Point: Why we have to rethink conservation

Queen Victoria

The Five Catastrophes that Made London

The King in the Car Park – the discovery and identification of Richard III

1665 London's last Great Plague

Waterloo: Causes, Courses and Consequences

War, Health and Medicine

Magnificence: a tale of Two Henrys

Britain and Europe

The Great Plagues: Epidemics in History from the Middle Ages to the Present Day (2012)

Slavery- The US perspective: from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement

Organised by History: The Office of Prime Minister

Podcasts

In Our Time BBC Radio 4 – a department favourite. Here are our particular recommendations:

Academic interest

Some suggestions for anyone who wants to widen their knowledge of history as an academic subject. Potential Oxbridge and other university candidates might find these useful.

History and understanding the past <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546qd>

History's relevance in the 20th century <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p005458q>

The Art of War <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548zm>

Democracy <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547jm>

History of History <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00gryrx>

Biography <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546vf>

Capitalism <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00545kv>

The Monarchy <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00545k6>

Money <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547ch>

The Divine Right of Kings <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0080xph>

The Wealth of Nations <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b052ln55>

Heritage <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548j4>

Republicanism <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546mp>

Edmund Burke <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00sqjyn>

Chivalry <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03tt7kn>

General

These might be interesting as they cover historical topics that are not specifically on a syllabus but are good to know about.

London <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00546w3>

Rome and European Civilisation <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547ms>

The Domesday Book <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b040llvb>

The Magna Carta <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00k4fq7>

Genghis Khan <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00773mr>

The Black Death <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00bcqt8>

The Thirty Years War <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0001fv2>

The Glorious Revolution <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547fk>

Frederick the Great <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b060bctq>

The Enlightenment <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p005479m>

The East India Company <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0054906>

The British Empire <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547kp>

The British Empire's Legacy <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p005459p>

Bismarck <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00775pm>

The Dreyfus Affair <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00n1l95>

Curriculum related

These will be of interest to those studying A level and for GCSE candidates will be a useful introduction to topics covered in the Reformation and Power units.

Is Shakespeare history? The Plantagenets <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0000nd9>

The Wars of the Roses <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546sp>

The Tudor State <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546xd>

Holbein at the Tudor Court <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06gw3jj>

The Field of the Cloth of Gold <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9dl>

The Dissolution of the Monasteries <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b009jtq1>

The Diet of Worms <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0038x8z>

The Siege of Munster <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00nkqrv>

Constantinople- siege and fall <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0038xbd>

The Siege of Malta <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09l1wmr>

The Battle of Stamford Bridge <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011jvlt>

The Norman Yoke <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b009q7zm>

The Domesday Book <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b040llvb>

Thomas Becket <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09hp2rm>

The Magna Carta <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00k4fq7>

The Peasants' Revolt <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0038x8s>

The Trial of Charles I <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00kpd6>

The Restoration <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547bx>

The Jacobite Revolution <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548y0>

The Glorious Revolution <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547fk>

The Peterloo Massacre <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9l7>

The Great Reform Act <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00flwh9>

The Corn Laws <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03dvbyk>

The Spanish Civil War <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548wn>

Other podcasts to explore:

Dan Snow's History Hit

Dan travels the length and breadth of the country to keep up with the cutting edge of history, talking to experts, historians, and the people who were actually there.

<https://www.historyhit.com/podcasts/dan-snows-history-hit/>

The History Hour BBC

An hour of history reporting told by the people who were there.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p016tmq1/episodes/downloads>

History Extra Podcast

Features interviews with notable historians talking about topics spanning ancient history through recent British to American events.

<https://www.historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/>

A History of the World in 100 Objects

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00nrtd2>

Browse

The best discoveries are sometimes made by chance, what might catch your eye, what seeds might be sown by a browse through some history websites?

The Historical Association <https://www.history.org.uk/>

The HA have made more of their material available to non-members. Here you will find lectures – some pre-recorded and some live on a range of topics as well as podcasts and publications.

History Today – an academic archive which pupils can access via the school's subscription. Senior pupils have log in details.

British History online is an amazing resource which has been opened up for free until the end of July

<https://blog.history.ac.uk/2020/03/british-history-online-makes-all-research-content-free-to-individual-users/>

The Institute of Historical Research <https://www.history.ac.uk/> for academic historians

The BBC

For those who like to get an overview of a topic or are just generally curious (as historians are) these BBC links are a useful source.

Middle Ages http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/middle_ages/

World War One <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nb93y>

World War Two <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/>

Holidays

Although you cannot travel at the moment it doesn't stop you planning!

You may not be able to be there in person but why not choose a destination from your holiday wish list and research its history.

Plan a history expedition as if you were running a tour for history enthusiasts. Plan a route to take you to four or five different destinations that would make for a nicely themed trip. What will be the focus of the journey and what will be the 'must see' venues for your guests? Put together a tour brochure to advertise your expedition.

Write your time travel itinerary; what time period will you visit and what will you want to see?

Visits

Visit a **Museum or Gallery**, take a virtual tour, select a favourite picture/artefact and answer the following:

Why are you drawn to this piece?

When it was produced, who made it and why?

What is its history?

What can it tell us about the time it was produced and its place of origin?

The National Gallery, London

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/virtual-tours>

The British Museum, London

<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

The Louvre, Paris

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>

The Uffizi Gallery, Florence

<https://www.uffizi.it/en/online-exhibitions>

The Metropolitan Museum, New York

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project>

The Vatican Museum

<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>

Museum of London Docklands

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/about-us/business-services/venue-hire/museum-london-docklands/virtual-tour>

How much do you know about our Government and Parliament?

Visit **The Houses of Parliament** and learn about how Parliament works through a series of short educational videos.

<https://learning.parliament.uk/outreach/online/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/virtualtour>

Visit a **castle, ancient monument, cathedral or royal palace** – here are a few suggestions

When you visit ask yourself these questions:

When was it built?

What is it made of/what style of architecture is it?

Whose was it?

Why did they build it?

What went on here?

Is it associated with any particular event/s in history?

How has it changed over time, in appearance and function?

Why do people still visit?

Stonehenge

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/stonehenge360/>

Dover Castle

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/dover-castle/>

Windsor Castle

<https://www.royal.uk/virtual-tours-windsor-castle>

Canterbury Cathedral

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/virtual-tour/>

Courses

Click on the link below to find some great university led courses requiring a commitment of two to four hours or so a week, aimed at sixth formers as an introduction to some of the fields of study and research on offer at our universities. An excellent way to broaden your horizons. Strongly recommended for anyone thinking of studying history at university. See what takes your fancy and report back on your return to school.....

<https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/history-courses>

Local History

As you take a walk to get your daily ration of outdoor exercise do you look about you? How much do you know about the area in which you live?

Where does the name of the area come from?

How has the area grown and developed over time? Did it develop in a particular era?

Is it associated with a particular industry, family, nationality, event, landmark, building, geographical feature, person, institution?

Has it altered socially over the years?

Take a walk and look at architectural styles, street names, changes of use in buildings. Maybe make some notes and go home and research.

Do the architectural features give you any clues as to the age of the buildings, when the area experienced most growth, the status of the area, the nature of the population?

Here are some links to help you in your research:

https://fet.uwe.ac.uk/conweb/house_ages/flypast/print.htm

<https://www.architecture.com/explore-architecture>

Look at street names? Do they reflect a local industry or trade, landowner or famous person, local features or national events? Do they offer any clues as to the past of the area?

You can look at Booth's poverty map to see how much poverty or wealth there was in the area in the past. These maps were part of an *Inquiry into Life and Labour in London* (1886-1903). Seven colour codes were used to classify streets ranging from 'Lowest class, vicious, semi criminal' to Upper middle and upper classes, wealthy'. The maps and further information can be found here:

<https://booth.lse.ac.uk/learn-more> Can you find your street on a map?

If your walk takes you near a cemetery are there any war graves in there. Look out for the green Commonwealth War graves sign. If so take a look – the Commonwealth War Graves are easily identifiable white headstones. Look for names and investigate on the Commonwealth War Graves website <https://www.cwgc.org/> where you can find out about the deceased and where they served.

Family History

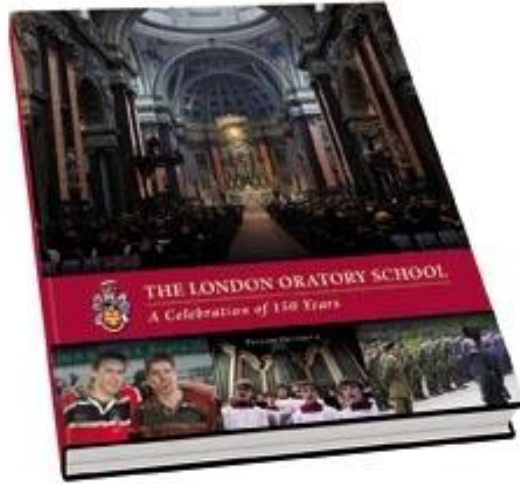
How much do you know about your family history?

Maybe you can make a family tree. You will find templates to help you with the layout here:

<https://freefamilytreetemplates.com/>

Ask your parents for information to get you started. Speak to older relatives – an excellent reason to phone or write to your more distant relations whom you may not have been in touch with for a while. Uncover and share memories; you may be amazed by what you uncover.

School History



Do you have a copy of The London Oratory School history book, published to mark the School's 150th anniversary in 2013? If you haven't read it, now is the time!

Could you be an 'LOS Mastermind'? Try the quiz below and see (all the answers can be found in the book). This one is quite a challenge!

- 1 Why did the boys of the School get a special additional holiday on 25th April 1882?
- 2 What was the name of the Headmaster during the First World War, whose son was killed in action in 1917?
- 3 In 1901 the School moved into a building in Cale Street. What would you find in that building today?
- 4 From Cale Street the School moved to Stewart's Grove. What now occupies that site?
- 5 Which Oratory school master captained the England Football team?
- 6 What did Headmaster Dr Summerbell introduce that required a visit to the Bradford Textile Company on Victoria Street?
- 7 To where in Wales were the Oratory pupils evacuated during World War II?
- 8 Why was the School in Stewart's Grove mentioned in Winston Churchill's War Cabinet meeting on 3 April 1941?
- 9 For the Second World War there are 45 Old Oratorians whose names are commemorated on the War Memorial in the School Chapel. How many of these served in the RAF?
- 10 Which famous photographer, film producer and former pupil was described by Headmaster Dr Summerbell as 'not a bad lad.'

- 11 Who became Headmaster in 1963?
- 12 How did the School get its motto, Respite Finem?
- 13 What had been on the Seagrave Road site before the School moved here in 1970?
- 14 For how many years did John McIntosh work at the School?
- 15 Why was the School surrounded by armed police during one summer holiday?
- 16 What is extra special about the tabernacle in the School Chapel?
- 17 Which House name is missing from this list: Philip, Francis, Edward?
- 18 Which science teacher was nicknamed 'Jam'?
- 19 What offence had been committed by the last pupil to receive corporal punishment?
- 20 How much pepper goes into 'Oratory Pie'?
- 21 Which teacher was the author of the School Song, Quam Bonum Est?
- 22 Where in the School would you find a plastic joke mask of former Prime Minister, John Major?
- 23 Why did former pupil Isobel Peachey meet the Queen in 2010?
- 24 What were 50 Oratory boys doing in Tokyo in 1989?
- 25 Which former Oratory pupil starred in a film with Bing Crosby?
- 26 What is the link between Agent Carter and The Duchess of Malfi?
- 27 What was special about the Varsity rugby match in 2007?
- 28 What act of bravery was carried out by 14 year old Norman Turner in 1931?
- 29 Which of the following sports have been offered in School Games lessons: lacrosse, fencing, horse riding, archery, sub aqua, golf, trampolining?
- 30 What was recorded under the heading, 'where the Oratory cap was seen'?
- 31 Who was the guest speaker at the launch of the History Society in 2002?
- 32 Why was there a sigh of relief in the vicinity of a £16 million Jaguar fighter aircraft in 1996?
- 33 Who was Conmael, who visited the School in 2010?
- 34 What revelation in 1991 linked the KGB and the Oratory?
- 35 What is the unusual link across 50 years between the artist Eduardo Paolozzi and the School?
- 36 What do the stars in the school badge represent?