

Year 8 History Vocabulary List

(Tier 2 and Tier 3)



Abolition – the removal of something, to make it illegal

Analyse – to break something down into its component parts in order to understand more about it

Civil war – a war between different factions (groups) within one country, for example the English Civil War of 1642-1649

Colony – an area or country that is under the control of the 'Mother Country'

Compare – to examine, or look for the similarities or differences between two or more events / individuals

Cross-reference – comparing evidence with other evidence to check whether it is trustworthy

Empire – a number of countries that are controlled by one country, usually known as the 'Mother Country'

Evaluate – to weigh up or judge the accuracy of something from the past

Evidence – clues left behind from the past that are used to help construct history

Explain – to make it clear why something happened

Hulk – a prison ship, often moored in places like Langstone or Portsmouth Harbour

Inference – identifying the indirect message from a piece of evidence

Interpretation – a viewpoint / opinion of an event or individual from the past

Jury – a group of 12 ordinary people who decide the fate of an accused person in a trial

Middle-way – the religious compromise that Elizabeth I created that allowed for some Catholic traditions to remain in the protestant Church of England

Parliament – the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the monarch: together they make the law

Protest – an organised complaint or demonstration against something or someone

Provenance – the origin of a historical source (who made it / when was it made / why was it made)

Reformation – the change in religion from Catholic to Protestant that was started by Henry VIII and completed by Elizabeth I

Regicide – the killing of a monarch, for example the execution of Charles I in 1649

Revolution – a rapid and significant change (it can apply in terms of who governs in a country, or in terms of economic development)

Rule of law – the principle that no-one, not even the monarch, is above the law and can be punished

Transportation – the movement of prisoners to a colony

Trial by ordeal – the process of ‘testing’ to see if someone is innocent by making them endure an ordeal, for example by holding a hot iron in their hand for 5 paces

Triangular trade – the trading across the Atlantic Ocean of European goods and weapons for African prisoners and then for products such as sugar, cotton and tobacco

Urbanisation – the movement from a largely agricultural economy to one based in towns and cities (countryside to towns)

Workhouses – the ‘prisons for the poor’, the place where the urban working class had to go to when they could no longer look after themselves, or their children