

History Glossary for Junior Cycle

Allies

Countries (including Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA) who joined forces to fight the Axis Powers.

Anti-Semitism

Hostility and/or prejudice against Jews.

Appeasement

This was the policy of many countries when Hitler first started to take over Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia. They gave in to Hitler's demands in order to avoid going to war. When Hitler invaded Poland, they realized that appeasement would not work and France and Great Britain declared war on Germany.

Archaeology

The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains.

Archives

A collection of documents or other records, especially those to do with the public or companies.

Artefact

A material object of a culture such as a tool, an article of clothing or a prepared food

Atomic Bomb

Weapon first used in 1945 when two bombs were dropped on Japan, killing more than 100,000 people.

Autobiography

An individual's account of their life

Axis Powers

Germany, Japan, Italy and other countries that were allies in World War 2.

Barbarian

A Greek word adopted by the Romans to refer to any people who did not

adopt the Roman way of life. It is said to have come originally from the sound *bar-bar*, which, according to the Greeks, was supposed to be the noise that people made when speaking foreign languages.

Blackout

Wartime ban on street lights and other lights at night.

Blitz

German air raids, from a German word 'blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'.

Blitzkrieg

German for 'lightning war'. A military strategy used by the Germans at the beginning of World War II to achieve victory through a series of quick offensives, especially in Belgium, Holland and France. After an initial bombardment, armour and motorised infantry were mobilised rapidly to break the weakest parts of the enemy line.

Bronze Age

In Britain, this was the period – from about 2300 to 700 BC – when metal first began to be widely used, possibly as a result of the increase in contact with Europe.

Chivalry

The collective term for the social codes of knighthood that originated in France in the Middle Ages. It was based on brave, courteous and honourable behaviour – what came to be known as 'gentlemanly conduct' – and was the subject of much medieval literature.

Cold War

A state of hostility without actually fighting. This existed between the United States (and its allies) and the USSR (and the Communist bloc) from the final days of World War II to the end of Communist rule in the Soviet Union (now Russia) in 1991.

communism, Communism

The theory that advocates a society in which all property is publicly owned and each person works and is paid according to his or her needs and abilities. Political Communism, established in Russia and elsewhere in the 20th century, was based on Marxism. It held that economic equality would only ever be achieved through revolution.

Dark Ages

A term given by some to the centuries in Europe immediately after the Roman period, from about AD 400. archaeologists find more satisfying.

Dendrochronology

A way of dating material from archaeological sites where wood has survived.

Fascism

The name comes from the Latin *fascēs* – a bundle of rods with a projecting axe, which was the symbol of authority in ancient Rome. The term was applied by Mussolini to his movement after his rise to power in 1922. The Fascists were anti-Communist and anti- liberal and, once in power, relied on an authoritarian state apparatus.

Feudalism

Tiered class system of medieval Europe in which land owned by someone of higher status was lived on and worked by someone of lower status in return for loyal service. The monarch was at the top of the pyramid, the peasants at the bottom.

Final Solution

A term used by the Nazis which meant the extermination of the Jews.

History

Although commonly used to refer to events which happened earlier in time, 'history' in academic study is either the study of the past or the product of our attempts to understand the past, rather than the past itself

Historian

An individual who studies the past

Holocaust

Mass murder of Jews and other people by the Nazis.

industrialisation

The development of industry on a large scale. Industrialism is an economic system that is based on industry and the mass production of consumer goods.

Iron Age

In Britain, the period from about 700 BC to AD 43 – following the Bronze Age and before the Roman period – when the working and use of iron gradually becomes evident.

Mesolithic

The last part of the hunter-gatherer period and the middle part of the Stone Age, between the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) and the Neolithic (New Stone Age).

Neolithic

The Neolithic, or New Stone Age, is the last period of the Stone Age , when many innovations were introduced, including monument building, the first engineering projects, the use of pottery and, most importantly, the domestication of plants and animals so that hunter-gathering was no longer the only or perhaps even the main way of obtaining food.

Palaeolithic

The term for the Old Stone Age, the immensely long period of hunter-gatherers extending from the time when humans first evolved until about 10,000 BC.

Palaeontology

The branch of science that deals with extinct and fossilised animals and plants.

Primary Sources

Material from, or directly related to, the past. In History, primary sources are usually letters, records or other documents created during the period that is being studied, such as diaries, legal notices or accounts. However, primary sources can include photographs, jewellery and other items

Propaganda

Controlling news media (such as radio) to show your side in the best way.

Protestant

A member of a Western Christian church whose faith and practice are founded on the principles of the Reformation , especially in

Reformation

The complex process of the 16th century by which various European countries stopped being Roman Catholic and became Protestant.

Renaissance

Meaning 'rebirth', this is the name given to the European trend (c. 1400-c. 1600) in which intellectuals and artists developed a passion for the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome. Originating in Italy, this movement of revived classical learning spread all over Europe. Everywhere, the new ideas that arose from this, including humanism

(which put humans, rather than God or nature, at the centre of the universe), struggled with traditional superstition and ignorance.

Secondary Sources

Material created by somebody removed from the event being studied - who was either not at the event, or was working later. For instance, all historical textbooks are secondary sources

Socialism

A political and economic theory of social organisation that advocates that the community as a whole should own and control the means of production.

Stone Age

A catch-all phrase for the period of human prehistory characterised by the use of stone tools. In Britain, the Stone Age covers a huge span of time – from the first traces of human occupation in about 450,000 BC to the first metalworking at the beginning of the Bronze Age, around 2300 BC. Archaeologists prefer the more clearly defined periods: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic, which are themselves divided up into shorter sub-periods.