

KS3 key words for units

Learn these key words and their spellings. You will be tested on your knowledge of them regularly. You will be expected to know the words for the unit you are studying and words from previous units you have already studied all the way through high school as key ideas and concepts will continue to be important over time.

Battle of Hastings

Anglo-Saxons- Invaders from Germany who ruled from about 500 to 1066

Fyrd- King Harold's ordinary/part-time soldiers

Housecarl- King Harold's best professional soldiers

Norman- a man from Normandy, Northern France

Shield wall- a long line of shields linked together in battle

Vikings- invaders from Denmark, Sweden or Norway

Witan- before the Normans arrived in England, this was a group of the most important bishops and earls who advised the king

Medieval monarchs

Bailey- A large courtyard surrounded by a fence, part of a castle

Bubonic- One of the two types of plague in the Black Death

Census- an official count of the population as a country

Charter- a written agreement or set of promises

Church Court- A court usually for priests, which gave lighter sentences

Concentric Castle- A type of medieval castle with rounded towers and different height walls, it was easier to defend

Feudal system- a system of dividing up the land; men received land in return for offering to fight for their lord or king

Flagellants- People who whipped themselves in order to ask God for forgiveness for their sins

Keep- The strongest part of a castle

Leeches- blood-sucking creatures (they look like slugs) used in medieval medicine

Looting- stealing

Motte- a large mound of earth on which a keep of a castle is usually built

Pneumonic- one of the two types of plague in the Black Death, it affected the lungs

Villein- a peasant

Tudor and Stuart England

Reformation - Reformation, also called Protestant Reformation, the move of part of the church away from the authority of the Pope. Its greatest leaders undoubtedly were Martin Luther and John Calvin.

Tudor Rose- the emblem (symbol) created by Henry Tudor (Henry VII) that is a mixture of the white York rose and the red Lancaster rose

Victorian Britain

Industrial Revolution- the time of great change when people began to make goods in factories using machines

Middle Passage: the journey made by slaves/slave ships across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to the West Indies

Plantations: estates in the West Indies where sugar cane was grown, or tobacco and cotton in estates in the United States

Slave: someone owned by another person

Workhouse- a place where poor people were forced to live and work if they wanted to be given food, clothing and shelter

World War One

Allies: people/countries on the same side, for example in war

Armistice: a truce where both sides agree to stop fighting for a time, ceasefire

Artillery: large heavy guns, the a Royal Artillery is the section of the army that uses them

British Commonwealth: a group of independent, free countries with close links to Britain

Conscientious objectors: men who refused to fight in war or join the army because they believed that war was always wrong

Conscription: a law that forces all men (and sometimes women) to join the armed forces if and when they are needed

Court martial: military court

Desertion: running away or abandoning something, for example the army

Dressing station: a place for giving emergency treatment to the wounded

Duckboards: wooden boards placed on the ground of trenches to stop people from sinking in the mud

Dugout: a roofed shelter built into the wall of a trench

Fire step: a raised platform on which soldiers stood to look over and fire over the top of the trenches

Pals Battalion/ regiment: a regiment made up of soldiers from the same town or area

Reparations: compensation paid for war damage by a defeated country

Shells: large bullets that are fired over long distances, usually from artillery guns

Triple Alliance: the alliance made up of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy at the beginning of World War One

Triple Entente: the alliance made up of Britain, France and Russia at the beginning of World War One

The Holocaust

Anti-Semitism: prejudice against Jews

Concentration camps: prison camps for specific groups of people where inmates are often treated with great brutality

Final Solution: The Nazi policy to exterminate all the Jews in Europe

Führer: 'Supreme Leader' in German, Hitler's name for himself

Genocide: deliberate extermination of people, based on their race, religion or political beliefs

Gestapo: Hitler's secret police force

Ghetto: an enclosed part of a city or separate area in which people live, sometimes by force

Hereditary: passed on from parent to children

Holocaust: a name given for the Nazis attempt to wipe out the Jewish race

Scapegoat: a person or group of people who are blamed for something in the place of the real culprits

Segregation: separation of different racial groups

SS: schutzstaffel, the Nazi secret police force

Sterilised: made unable to have children

Swastika: an ancient symbol that was altered and used by the Nazis

World War Two

Allied Powers: Countries that fought against the Axis Powers. Primary members included the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, France, and China.

Appeasement: trying to keep another nation happy by doing what it asks Area bombing: bombing whole towns and cities to make sure that everything is destroyed

Axis Powers: An alliance formed by Germany, Italy, and Japan. These countries wanted to expand and conquer other countries. They were opposed by the Allied Powers.

Blitzkrieg: This means "lightning war" in German. Hitler would attack quickly and try to take over a country before it had time to fight back.

Eastern Front: The Germans called the war with the Soviet Union the Eastern Front.

Evacuate: to move people out of a dangerous place

Kamikaze: A term used to describe how Japanese pilots would intentionally crash their planes into US battleships. The planes were sometimes full of explosives and the pilots knew they were going to die.

Luftwaffe: The name for the German air force.

Wehrmacht: The name for the German army.