

A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, both wearing red school uniforms, leaning over a table and looking at a large historical map. The girl, on the left, has brown hair tied back with a red headband and is holding a red pencil. The boy, on the right, is holding a yellow pencil. The map they are looking at shows a detailed street layout of a city, likely from the 19th or early 20th century. In the top right corner, there is a white box with the text 'THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES' in black, arranged in three rows.

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

Schools' Guide

nationalarchives.gov.uk/education

“I thought the whole session was very engaging. The resources were interesting and easily accessible. The children were very engaged; all of them were desperate to answer questions.”

Primary school teacher



The National Archives Education Service

The National Archives is the official archive for the UK Government and the guardian of over 1,000 years of iconic documents.

We believe that students of all ages should be able to explore the past and turn the pages of history themselves! Our workshops and events offer a unique learning experience, giving children the chance to investigate and handle original documents from across time.

The Education team combine years of history teaching experience and knowledge to produce and deliver our exciting taught sessions. We have won numerous awards for providing outstanding heritage education.

Subscribe to our schools newsletter using the link below for updates on workshops, events and teaching resources.

pages.eneews.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pages/schools

Learning Resources for your teaching

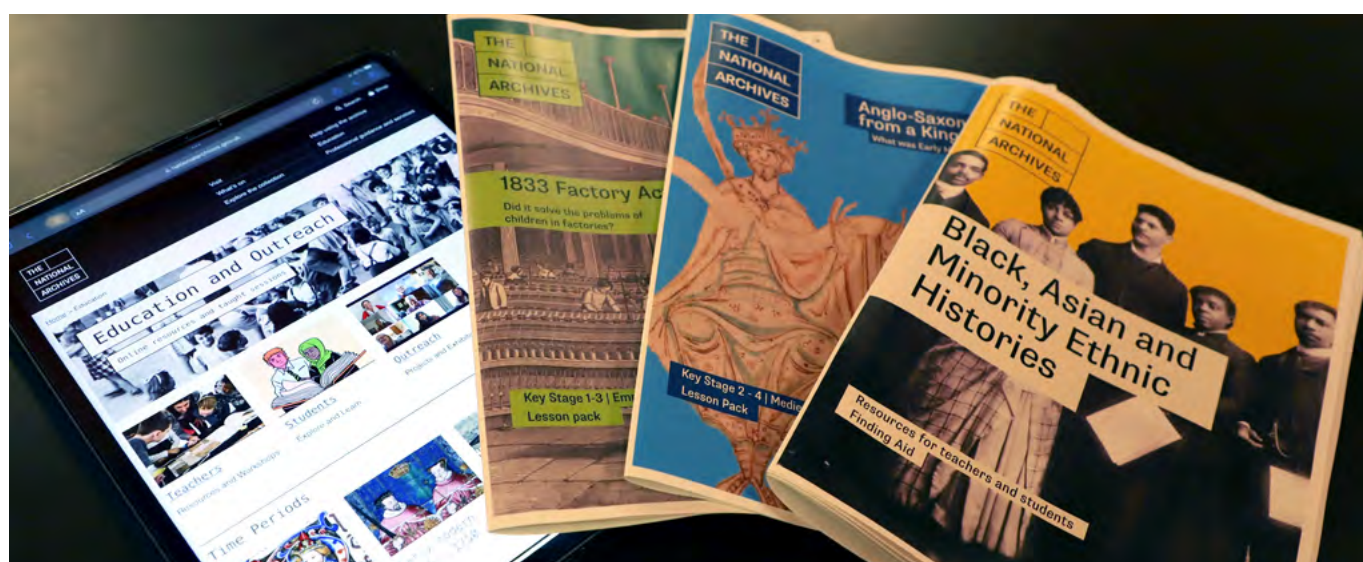
We also provide over 300 free learning resources to be used in the classroom for KS1 – KS5.

From ready-to-teach lessons to document collections, informative videos and document narrations, with topics from medieval to modern, we've made it

easy to include primary source material in your lessons.

Find your resources

nationalarchives.gov.uk/education



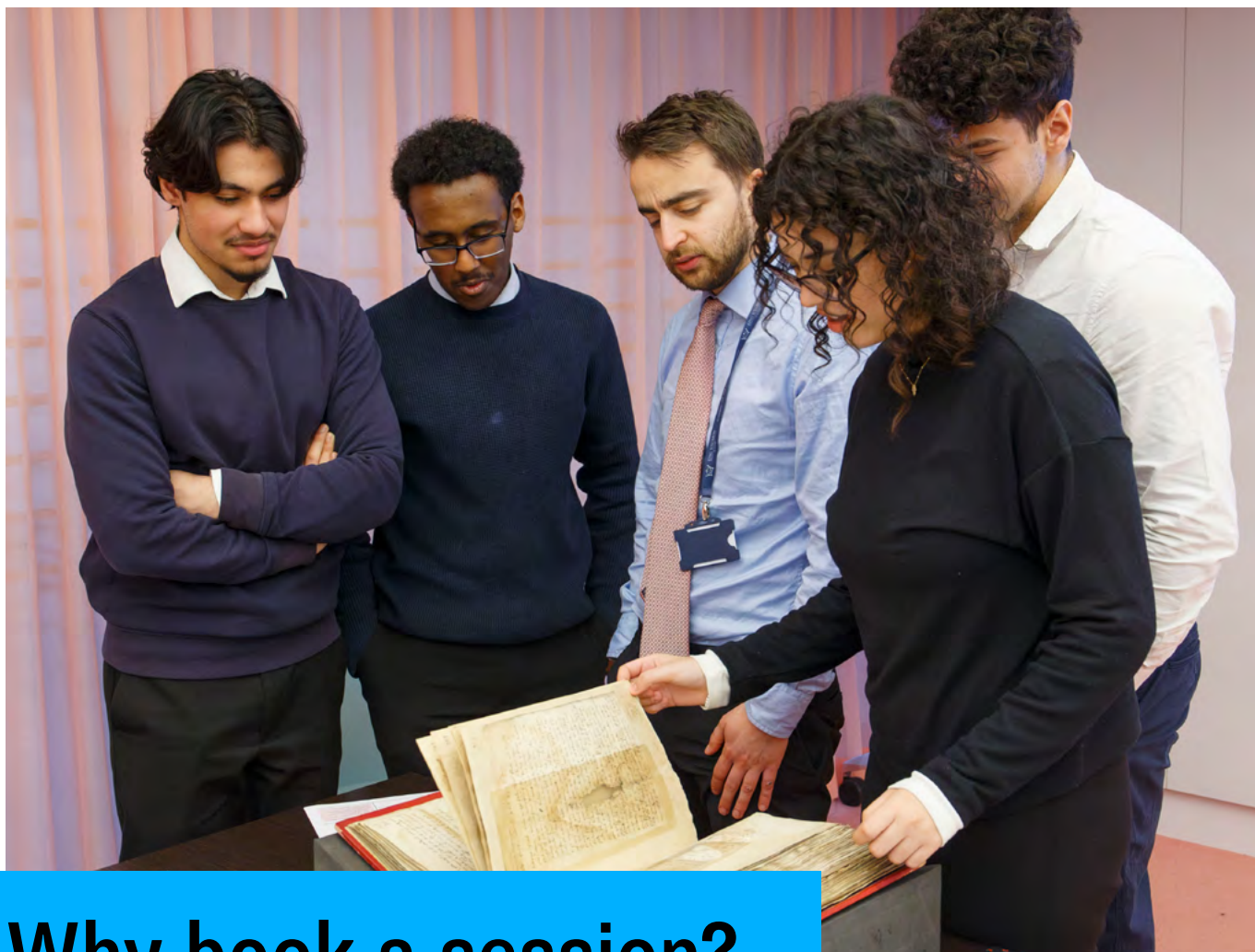
Our lessons are investigations exploring high-resolution images of historical documents and their transcripts with adaptable activities.



Our themed collections offer packs of documents connected to a topic, such as 1960s Britain or letters from First World War soldiers, to aid a broader exploration.



Our video resources offer guided introductions to our documents by historians and in-house experts.



Why book a session?

Completely free workshops,
available onsite and online

Explore documents from our
extensive collections in detail
and, if onsite, get 'hands on'
with history

Designed and led
by a qualified teacher

Direct links to the National
Curriculum and exam
board specifications

Investigate a range of diverse
historical narratives

Travel/teacher cover bursary
available for eligible schools,
subject to terms and conditions.
Please use the following link
for details:

[nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/
teachers/what-we-offer/the-
national-archives-education-
bursary-scheme/](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/teachers/what-we-offer/the-national-archives-education-bursary-scheme/)

Our workshops

From Domesday Book to the Cold War, we have curated a variety of workshops aimed at enriching your students' understanding of the past.

Through an enquiry-led workshop, students will get the chance to work with original documents just as a historian would – whether they are Key Stage 1 or 5.

Our workshops take place both from the comfort of your classroom, or, here at The National Archives, Kew.

Our workshops link directly to the National Curriculum and all major exam board specifications.



Onsite

Visit one of our purpose-built learning spaces at The National Archives, Kew. Each space is fitted with an interactive SMARTboard, iPads and visualiser.







Online

Connect from your classroom via a locked and private Zoom call. All you need is a computer, large screen, webcam and microphone. An IT test can be provided prior to your online workshop.

What to expect

- A highly interactive session led by a specialist educator.
- A unique opportunity to get up close and personal with our original documents. If online, students will be provided with high-resolution copies and transcripts. If onsite, students will be able to view or handle at least one original document and get hands on with the past!
- A range of fun and creative activities such as palaeography challenges, storytelling, and code-deciphering.
- A chance for your students to develop their evidential understanding and ability to formulate historical interpretations in a unique learning environment.






Workshops – Primary

Workshop title	Location		Age group	
	Onsite 	Online 	KS1 	KS2 
Ancient Egypt in the Archives	X	X		X
Black Victorians	X	X		X
Domesday Book	X	X		X
Four Days' Hard Labour	X	X		X
Great Fire of London	X	X	X	
Henry VIII: Image of a King	X	X		X
Living Under Canvas: Child Refugee Stories		X		X
Mapping London	X			X
Propaganda	X	X		X
Significant Women	X	X	X	
The Sinking of the Titanic		X		X
Treasures	X	X		X
Unmasking a Spy	X			X
What is History?	X	X		X

**We welcome enquiries from home education groups.
Please contact us to discuss your needs.**

‘What is History?’ is the perfect introduction to History studies. Available for years 5-7.

Workshops – Secondary

Workshop title	Location		Age group		
	Onsite 	Online 	KS3 	KS4 	KS5 
All Pals Together		X	X	X	
Black Victorians	X	X	X		
Chartism	X				X
Civil Rights and Racial Segregation	X				X
Cold War	X	X		X	X
Crisis in the Reign of Mary I	X	X			X
Domesday Book	X	X	X		
Enquiring into Elizabeth	X	X	X	X	X
From the Front		X	X	X	
Hidden Love	X	X		X	X
Introduction to Document Research	X				X
Medicine on the Western Front	X	X		X	X
Migrants to Britain	X	X		X	
Resistance and Rebellion in the Caribbean	X	X	X		
Russia in Revolution	X	X			X
Suffragettes	X		X		X
The Holocaust	X		X		
The Mangrove Nine	X	X	X	X	
The Sinking of the Titanic		X	X		
Tudor Rebellions	X	X			X
What is History?	X	X	X		
Whitechapel	X	X	X	X	

Please note, our sessions are not designed to be an introduction to the topic and students are assumed to have some prior knowledge.

New workshops and teaching resources are constantly in development.

Please visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/education for the most up to date information.



Introduction to Document Research

In this onsite KS5 workshop, students investigate a large selection of original historical documents around your chosen theme.

This session develops skills in document analysis and strengthens understanding about how history is constructed.

There will be an introduction to archives and the provenance of the document collection relating to the theme students are studying before an opportunity for learners to handle a wealth of original documents, particularly valuable for coursework or EPQs.

Choose from the following themes which can be selected while booking your workshop:

- The Tudors
- English Civil War
- Civil Rights in the USA
- Health and the Poor Law
- Partition of British India
- Suffragettes
- Cold War

During your visit

Below is an example itinerary for a group of 30 secondary students visiting our site at Kew for a morning visit.

9.45

Arrival and welcome from a member of our Visitor Experience Team.

9.55

Greeting from Education Officer and briefing.

10.00

Workshop begins in one of our dedicated learning spaces.

Students engage in an exciting, interactive workshop and always work with original documents.

12.00

Workshop ends, belongings collected, opportunity to use our lunch space and then depart.

Please note that we offer four start times for sessions, subject to availability. 10 or 10.30am for morning workshops and 1 or 1:30pm for afternoon workshops.



How to book

Once you've chosen your workshop click 'Request a booking' to find all of our available workshop timeslots on our Eventbrite page.

You will be asked to fill out a brief form about your booking, after which we will get in touch to provide any additional resources you may need for your session.

If you have any queries about your workshop, we would be very happy to help.

Contact us at:

educationbookings@nationalarchives.gov.uk

To book an online or onsite session please use the following link to our education workshop pages.

nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions-and-resources



Cancellation policy

We are delighted to be able to offer our workshops free of charge and want to extend them to as many schools as possible, so we kindly ask that if you need to cancel your workshop you provide us with at least 14 days' notice, otherwise a cancellation fee will be applied.



Our facilities

Nestled in leafy Kew lies our striking brutalist building, designed to keep our remarkable documents safe. Here, you can find:

Student-friendly, purpose-built, and fully accessible learning spaces

Classrooms equipped with a SMARTboard, iPads, audio-visual equipment, an induction loop and a document visualiser

A student lunch area,* for use either before or after your onsite workshop

A dedicated bag and lunch storage space

Accessible toilet facilities and handwashing station

Free parking for coaches and minibuses*

Outdoor picnic benches overlooking a pond, home to our resident ducks and swans

An exciting exhibition space and as well as installations throughout the building.

Visit our exhibitions webpage for more information:

nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/exhibitions

*Booking required

How to find us

There are several options for reaching us.



By coach

The National Archives is located just off the South Circular road, near to the M4. We have a designated bay for those arriving by coach, which can be booked here. Please note coach bay bookings are subject to availability.

Book a coach bay by clicking the link below:

eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-national-archives-for-groups-9224318379



By train or tube

The nearest stations are Kew Gardens, which is served by the District tube line and The Mildmay London Overground Line, and Kew Bridge, served by South Western Railway.



By car

We also have a visitor car park available for a small fee, paid on departure at the Welcome Desk. Please note that The National Archives is located within the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Most vehicles, including cars and vans, need to meet the ULEZ emissions standards or their drivers must pay a daily charge to drive within the zone.





**Our address is: The National Archives,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.**

**For sat navs, use the postcode
TW9 4AD (Bessant Drive).**

“Students loved being given the freedom to choose, handle and gather information from the documents. Students asked if next time the session could be longer!”

Secondary school teacher



The National Archives
Kew, Richmond
Surrey TW9 4DU

nationalarchives.gov.uk/education

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