Blenheim Palace and the 1st Duke of Marlborough

1. Blenheim Palace was built for the 1st Duke of Marlborough.

What is a duke?

A duke is a nobleman. The most important nobleman is a king.

Do you know another duke?

2. The 1st Duke of Marlborough was a soldier.

What is a soldier?

A soldier is a person who protects and defends a country on land, at sea and in the air.

Do you know another soldier?

3. The 1st Duke of Marlborough fought during the War of the Spanish Succession.

What is war?

A war is a conflict between groups of people because they have a disagreement.

Do you know another war?

4. The 1st Duke of Marlborough won the Battle of Blenheim in 1704.

What is a battle?

A battle is a fight between groups of people at a specific time and place.

Do you know another battle?



5. Queen Anne rewarded the 1st Duke of Marlborough with money to build Blenheim Palace in 1705.

What is a palace?

A palace is a residence where a nobleperson or a Church of England bishop lives.

Do you know another palace?

Britain prehistoric timeline

Blenheim Palace was built in Woodstock, a town in Oxfordshire. There is no evidence of Stone Age and Bronze Age settlements around Woodstock. There is little evidence of Iron Age settlements on the Blenheim Estate.

1. **The Stone Age** is the first period of prehistory. Stone Age is divided into three periods.

What characterises each period?

STONE AGE		
Palaeolithic	**Mesolithic**	**Neolithic**
Nomadic lifestyle	Farmer	Late Stone Age
Early Stone Age	Hunter-gatherer	Hammerstones
Sedentary lifestyle	Sharpened sticks	Middle Stone Age

2. Prehistory is divided into three periods.

If there were evidence of settlements for each period, what type of evidence would we find?

Stone Age 15,000BC to 2,500BC	
Bronze Age 2,500BC to 800 BC	
Iron Age 800BC to 43AD	

Using copper and gold	Cooking food in cauldron in fire	Farming cows, pigs and sheep
Grinding grain with rotary quern	Living in caves	Making swords
Wearing clothes made with flax	Traveling in long wooden boats	Using tin to make steel tools
Using chariots	Weaving wool to make clothes	Using stone and wooden tools
Using bows and arrows	Making cooking vessels and pots	Living in clans in round houses

3. Name famous British prehistoric sites for each period.

Stone Age	
Bronze Age	
Iron Age	

Britain historic timeline: 43 – 1066

Prehistory ended when the Romans invaded Britain. The land became known as a Roman province called Britannia. When the Romans left, the Anglo-Saxons came and renamed the land, *England.* The Vikings invaded England, but they were pushed back.

1. There is evidence of Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlements around Blenheim and Woodstock, but none of Viking settlements.

What did the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, and Vikings bring to Britain?

The Romans 43 – 410	**The Anglo-Saxons** 410 – 1066	**The Vikings** 793 – 1066
Christianity	Churches, holy water, saints	Norse language
Latin language	Germanic language	Earl *(Jarl)*
Roman numerals	King *(Cyning)* and Queen *(Cwen)*	Longboats
Roads	Fining criminals	Name of people ending in –son
Coins	Kingdoms: Kent, Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia, Northumbria	Name of weekdays

2. A place's name ending with –caster, –cester, or –chester is a place that was founded on a Roman settlement.

Can you name places ending in –caster, –cester, or –chester?

2. A place's name ending with –burgh, –bury, or –brough is a place that was founded on an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Can you name places ending in –burgh, –bury, or –brough?

4. A place's name ending with –by –thorpe –ay is a place that was founded following the Viking invasion.

Can you name places ending in –by, –thorpe, or –ay?

Woodstock: 1066 – 1714

William Duke of Normandy invaded England in 1066. He built castles to keep control of the land. He commissioned the Domesday Book to keep track of the land.

Woodstock appeared in the Book as *Wodestoch*, as the King's domain.

1. Woodstock was one of the five royal forests in the area. A hunting lodge was built and rebuilt. It was called the Royal Manor of Woodstock.

The Normans 1066 – 1154	• King William built Wallingford Castle and Oxford Castle. His brother Odo lived at Deddington Castle. • King William's granddaughter Matilda fought to keep the Crown for her son Henry. She took refuge at Wallingford Castle. • Matilda's son, **King Henry I**, built a **stone-wall** around the Royal Park of Woodstock. It was the first forest enclosure in England.
The Angevins 1154 – 1216	• King Henry II spent much time at Woodstock with his mistress Rosamund. The well is named after her: **Rosamund's well**. • He granted Woodstock a Royal Charter in 1179. This allowed Woodstock to hold a market and a fair. • His son, King John, signed the Magna Carta in 1215.
The Plantagenets 1216 – 1399	• King Edward III's wife, Queen Philippa, loved spending time at Woodstock. Part of the lake is named after her: Queen Pool. Three of their children were born at the Royal Manor of Woodstock. • Their **eldest son Edward** was born at **Woodstock**. He was known as the **Black Prince** because he wore a black armour. • Their other sons John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster, and Edmund of Langley, 1st Duke of York, became rivals and their rivalry led to the War of the Roses.
The Lancastrians 1399 – 1461	• King Richard II spent Christmas 1389 at Woodstock. • **King Henry VI** granted **Woodstock** a **Charter of Incorporation** in 1453. This made Woodstock a Borough.
The Yorkists 1461 – 1485	• King Henry VII rebuilt the Manor. • It was at Woodstock that his son **Prince Arthur was betrothed to Princess Catherine of Aragon** in 1497. • Prince Arthur died in 1502. King Henry VII died in 1509. • Arthur's brother, King Henry VIII, acceded to the throne, and he married his brother's widow Princess Catherine.

The Tudors 1485 – 1603	• King Henry VIII died in 1553. His eldest daughter became the first Queen to reign in her own right: Queen Mary I. • Fearing that her sister would plot against her, **Queen Mary I imprisoned her sister Princess Elizabeth at Woodstock** between 22 May 1554 and 17 April 1555. • Queen Elizabeth I celebrated the anniversary of her Accession Day at Woodstock in 1575.
The Stuarts 1603 – 1714	• The Royal Manor of Woodstock was mostly destroyed during the **English Civil War.** • **Queen Anne** gave the land and the Royal Manor of Woodstock to John Churchill as reward for his victory at the Battle of Blenheim.

2. Find out if your hometown was in the Domesday book and if kings and queens visited.

Woodstock: 1714 – 1910

Blenheim Palace was built between 1705 and 1733. The residents of Woodstock no longer had a royal neighbour, but a ducal neighbour: the 1st Duke of Marlborough.

1. These hotels were coaching inns.

Spot these features.



Bear Hotel, 13th century



Coach entrance



White bear entrance



Marlborough Arms, 15th century



Coach lights

Coach entrances were wide and high enough for horses and coaches. Coach lights were useful when riding in the dark.

2. Every town has a Town Hall.

Spot these features of Woodstock Town Hall.



Duke of Marlborough's crest



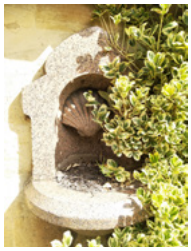
Bell



Sundial



Woodstock Town' crest



Water fountain



Blocked window

The bell was to communicate with the townspeople. The water fountain supplied drinking water. The sundial replaced a wooden clock, which is now in the Palace.

3. Can you spot the blocked windows on buildings?



Hope House



In 1766, people living in houses with seven windows, and more were taxed for having so many windows. Some of the owners blocked some of their windows.

Mulberry Tree House

4. Can you spot tie rods on some buildings?



T and X tie rod crosses



S tie rod crosses



Old stone buildings can become in danger of collapsing. To avoid this, metal rods are inserted through the walls to pull the walls inwards. This prevents the walls caving in. The crosses act like nuts that hold the screws in.



Blenheim and Woodstock during the First World War

1. There was a global conflict in **1914**. The war ended at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in **1918**.



Many millions of soldiers died during the four years of war. Many of them were buried on the battlefields. There were unnamed soldiers. One of them is buried at Westminster Abbey in London. It is called the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There is a **Tomb of an Unknown** Soldier in every country that fought in the war.

2. It was decided to end the war with a **truce**, which means there was no winner or loser. The 11th of November every year is known as **Armistice Day** in the UK.



As a sign of respect to those who served and died during the war, people around the world hold a **two-minute silence** on the 11th of November at 11.00am. It's called **Remembrance Day.** In the UK, services are held in churches on the nearest Sunday to Armistice Day. In London, thousands of servicemen and women march past a memorial called the Cenotaph.

3. People wear **poppies** as a symbol of remembrance of the past and as a symbol of hope for the future.



A Canadian soldier, John McRae, was inspired by the red poppies growing on the **battlefields** in Belgium. He wrote a poem which started like this, "In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row..."

People started wearing poppies to mark Remembrance Day in 1921. Today, the British Legion raise money for the wounded soldiers and the families of soldiers who have died in service by selling these poppies.

4. There is a **war memorial** in every village / town / city in Britain to commemorate the soldiers who died during the war.



Names of soldiers who died in service are inscribed on the war memorial closest to their home. A Town War Memorial was erected to pay tribute to townspeople who died in service during the First World War. Subsequently, names of those who died in the Second World War were added. Amongst them were people who worked at Blenheim Palace.

Find the war memorial in Woodstock.

5. Blenheim became a convalescent hospital during the First World War.



The 9th Duke converted the Long Library into a hospital.

Many stately homes in Britain were converted into hospitals.

Are there any buildings near where you live that have been used during the First World War?

Blenheim and Woodstock during the Second World War

1. There was another global conflict that started in **1939**. The war ended on the **8th of May 1945** at 23.00. This day was called VE Day: **V**ictory in **E**urope.



While many countries fell to Germany, Britain was the only fighting country in Europe that had not been invaded by the enemy. Britain survived the **Battle of Britain** and the **Blitz**, but Britain was badly damaged.

Ask the older members of your family how the war affected their lives.

2. British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** announced the victory via the radio at 15.00.



Churchill appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with the King and Queen, and their two daughters Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. People throughout the country celebrated with **street parties**.

Were there street parties in 1945 in your community?

3. Although the war was over in Europe, the fight continued in Japan. The war ended on 15th August 1945. This day was called VJ Day: **V**ictory in **J**apan.

Japan surrendered after nuclear bombs were dropped on their country. More celebrations took place in the U.S.A. Once again, the King and Queen and their two daughters appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to salute the rejoicing crowds.

4. Evacuees came to Woodstock when war was declared.



Fearing that cities would be bombed, children who lived in cities were evacuated to the countryside for safety. Over 300 children were evacuated to Woodstock and stayed with local families.

How did your community contribute to the war effort?

5. Blenheim was requisitioned for the duration of the war.



The 10th Duke accepted to lodge 400 boys from Malvern College who were evacuated from their own school.

Are there any buildings near where you live that have been used or damaged during the Second World War?

Winston Churchill and Blenheim

1. Winston Churchill was famous for having been the British **Prime Minister** during the Second World War.



He was best known for rallying the country in the darkest times with his **war speeches**.

"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

"We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall never surrender."

2. Winston Churchill was related to the Dukes of Marlborough at Blenheim.



The 7th Duke was his grandfather.
The 8th Duke was his uncle.
The 9th Duke was his cousin and best friend.

The link between Churchill and Blenheim was immortalised on the 2017 **£5-note.**

Ask an adult to show you a £5-note. On the side of Churchill's image, you'll see in the top right corner a circle that symbolises the Marlborough Maze.

3. Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.



He was born on 30th November 1874.

He spent many of his school holidays at Blenheim.

4. Winston Churchill spent a lot of time at Blenheim Palace.



He proposed to his wife in the garden at the Temple of Diana.

He spent long periods of time reading and writing in the Long Library. He wrote a biography of the 1st Duke of Marlborough.

He also enjoyed painting. Some of his paintings are displayed in the room where he was born.

5. Winston Churchill was buried at Bladon.



He died on 20th January 1965. He was 90 years old.

He wanted to be buried near his birthplace. He was buried at St Martin's Church in Bladon.