

Call for expressions of interest in producing Key Stage 3 lesson plans and supporting resources on postwar British history

Background

Learn About Britain is new organisation educating young people, new migrants and the wider public about British history, citizenship, culture and values. Core to this mission is a commitment to education about our national history which is inclusive and representative of all who make up modern Britain. With this in mind, during 2024-25 we plan to build on our first set of history resources (exploring the life and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill) by commissioning new educational materials for schools that are research-informed, pedagogically robust and rooted in the historical discipline. We believe it is important that Britain's diverse and challenging histories (and contemporary debates about them) are faced head on and that young people growing up in the UK have the opportunity to learn about them in a rigorous, non-judgemental and sensitive way, in recognition of the fact that young people themselves may have personal or family connections to these histories. Furthermore, we believe that where young people feel moved to respond to what they have learned about these histories and their impact on contemporary Britain, they should be supported and empowered to do so through social action programmes.

Our core historical education principles are as follows:

- Ensuring that the classroom is a safe space for enquiry and discussion of both historical issues and their contemporary impacts by preparing and equipping students with the skills and language to engage in such discussion;
- Ensuring that as Britain's past is increasingly politicised in contemporary debate, the discipline of history is upheld by focussing on rigorous enquiry-based learning, critical thinking, and placing the student at the heart of the learning experience;
- Presenting history in an inclusive and representative way, using a wide range of source materials, individual testimony and experiences and varied interpretations which enable students to develop their own conclusions on contested histories;
- Enabling and empowering students to respond to their learning in meaningful ways.

Call for expressions of interest in developing new educational materials on postwar British history

To build on our Key Stage 3 History unit on Sir Winston Churchill, we want to develop new resources on a range of subjects relating to Britain after 1945 under the following headings:

- Social, cultural and technological change (potentially including but not limited to):
 - The immigrant experience in postwar Britain
 - LGBT histories in the postwar era
 - The transition to a post-industrial society and the impact on communities
 - The four nations of the UK including devolution, movements for independence in Wales and Scotland and the Troubles in Northern Ireland
 - The reign of Queen Elizabeth II and changing attitudes to the monarchy

- The formation of the welfare state and the NHS
- The end of Empire and Britain's place in the world (potentially including but not limited to)
 - Recent military conflicts in which Britain has been involved
 - Britain's changing relationships with Europe and the United States
 - The histories of former colonies and the evolution of the Commonwealth

We invite expressions of interest by 9am on 28 August from anyone interested in producing educational resources for Learn About Britain on one or more of these themes. We are seeking lesson plans and supporting resources focussed on the 11-14 age range which meet the pedagogical principles set out above. We would welcome proposals for the development of units of up to six lessons (proposals for developing smaller units will be considered), with each lesson lasting approximately 45-50 minutes (allowing flexibility for teachers to adapt resources to fit their timetables and student needs). Supporting films or multimedia content has proved valuable in our Churchill resources but is not essential.

The resource developers to whom we award contracts will be provided with our full unit on Sir Winston Churchill as a model to follow, our pedagogical guidance, templates for lesson plans and supporting resources to populate and a series of guidance/feedback sessions with our team (see timelines below) to help ensure that the resources fit with our pedagogical approach and house style: authors will be credited but the resources will belong to Learn About Britain so original content is required (references to publicly available materials will be accepted).

Timeline

- 9am 28 August: deadline for submission of expressions of interest
- 13 September: expected award of contracts
- 20 September: introductory meeting with resource developers
- 1 November: midpoint check in with resource developers
- 2 December: deadline for development of first draft of resources
- 9 December: feedback on first draft of resources to be sent
- 6 January: deadline for final resources to be submitted to Learn About Britain

Next steps

Expressions of interest of no more than two pages should be sent to joe@learnaboutbritain.uk by 9am on 28 August (any questions should be sent to the same address). Proposals should include:

- The proposed subject area(s) you wish to cover and an explanation of why you/your team are best placed to develop the resources on the subject area(s), specifically referencing both your knowledge of this area of history and your educational experience
- An outline structure including number of lessons, key learning outcomes and activities
- Confirmation of your commitment to Learn About Britain's pedagogical principles
- Confirmation of your capacity to meet the deadlines set out above
- Your quote for producing the resources
- The names and contact details of two referees we can contact if necessary