

# #History

## Biographies

Whichever area of History you're studying, there are key characters you need to understand. Like Hitler in WWII, or William the Conqueror in 1066, or Osama Bin Laden in 2001. We often deal with what they did and why they did it, but we don't often get the time to look at the person themselves. Google the name of a key character in what you're studying and put together a one-page biography (bullet points are fine) and add in a good picture or photograph. It's not an art lesson, so just do your best or copy something online.

## Cartoon Strips

Many of the events we study in History happen over a period of time, like the Cuban Missile crisis lasting 13 days, or WWI lasting 4 years, or the 9/11 attacks lasting about 3 hours. Sometimes it helps to have these periods illustrated in a carton strip form with speech bubbles, drawings or anything else that will help you remember it. Pick an event and give it a try.

### Models

Visualising the key events in history is a good way of understanding and remembering them. Sometime the words on the page of your exercise books aren't nearly as good as a scale model of what you're talking about. In year 7, Students often make a model of a castle to illustrate the different types that were being built, but there's no reason this can't be extended to all areas of History learning. A detailed model of Checkpoint Charley for the Cold Way, a V1 launch ramp for WWII, a trench battle scene for 1916. The possibilities are endless, so pick something from your courses and have a go.

## Newspapers

Events in History can sometimes seem a bit dull if you just write about them like a story. Why not try and design the front page of a newspaper with photos, journalist reports and opinions from the general public about an event that you're interested in. I have many example in my classroom of newspapers from the day after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand that triggered the start of WWI. Or perhaps you could try and recreate newspapers from the morning after the 9/11 attacks?

#### Art

A picture paints a thousand words, as they say. Why not try that out for real. Take an event or scene from history that you have learnt about and try to create a work of art that tells us exactly what was going on, and why. The challenge is to do this without annotating or using words of any kind. The best ones will always find their way onto my classroom wall.