

Parliament & Prime Ministers

Year 1

Key end points of the 'Parliament & Prime Ministers' unit are:

- William and Mary signed the Bill of Rights.
 - Parliament makes decisions about our country.
 - The Prime Minister is the leader of the government.
 - The Prime Minister leads the country.
 - Robert Walpole is considered by historians to have been the first Prime Minister.
 - Adults vote to choose the people who run our country.
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This unit directly builds on from the 'Kings, Queens & Leaders' unit. Told like stories, the children will be introduced to historically significant events that highlight the development of British democracy, including the introduction of the Bill of Rights and the introduction of the first Prime Minister: Robert Walpole. As well as learning about the changing role of Parliament, and the introduction of the office of Prime Minister, the children will also learn about what Parliament and the Prime Minister do today. This includes looking at changes in living memory, such as the change in government/Prime Minister/local MP. Through role-play, children will experience what it is like to vote, and how all the votes are counted and the person who has the most votes wins. This activity will support fruitful conversations around some of the difficulties of voting, especially when everyone has different opinions. Throughout the unit, the children will be encouraged to ask questions and use the important key vocabulary taught.

This unit also subtly introduces the disciplinary concept of continuity & change through exploring the declining power of the monarchy and the increasing influence of the Prime Minister and Parliament. This theme will be explored across the history curriculum and will help children understand constitutional monarchy and modern-day politics. Later, children will look further into constraints on the power of the monarchy when studying the unit on 'Law and Power' in Y3 and the 'Stuarts' in Y4. They will also look at development of democracy today when studying 'Ancient Greece' in Y4, the 'French Revolution' in Y5, the 'Suffragettes' in Y6, as well as the important role of Parliament during 'World War I and II' in Y6. The children will also look at the achievements of historically significant Prime Ministers and MPs throughout the curriculum, such as Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, David Lloyd George, and William Wilberforce. Overall, this unit provides children with a secure foundation of background knowledge and important vocabulary that will support their understanding as they progress through the curriculum.

Lesson Sequencing:

The sequence of lessons in this unit has been designed to develop pupils' understandings of events which have occurred within and beyond living memory that are significant nationally and globally, as well as highlighting the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Lesson 1 begins by activating prior



knowledge of the introduction of the Magna Carta. In this lesson pupils will develop their understanding of the substantive concept of power and will learn that Queen Mary II and William of Orange signed another special piece of paper called the Bill of Rights ensuring that Parliament would be allowed to make the laws in England. Lesson 2 focuses on the role of Parliament and how this group of people make decisions about our country. Pupils will retrieve what they previously learned about Simon de Montfort, and how historians believe him to be the Father of English Parliament. Lesson 3 emphasises the role of the Prime Minister and how the Prime Minister makes decisions for our country. Pupil will learn about Robert Walpole who is remembered as the first 'Prime Minister', and they will be introduced to the current Prime Minister. Lesson 4 highlights how the Prime Minister leads the country and how his government decides how money, gained through taxes, should be spent. Lesson 5 ends with introducing the notion of voting and democracy, these substantive concepts will be developed as pupils progress through the curriculum.

Key substantive concepts focused on in this unit are **power**, **Parliament**, and **democracy**.

Key disciplinary concepts focused on are **historical significance** (historians believe Simon de Montfort to be the 'Father of English Parliament'), and **continuity & change**. The children will also look at an important **source**- an image of the Bill of Rights (teachers can emphasise we know about this important promise because we can read this document).