

PE

We will be developing our coordination, agility and fitness through cricket and athletics this term. In cricket we will focus on our ability to bowl accurately, and in athletics we will develop our ability to jump, run and throw.

Computing

We will be learning how to create short films using stop motion software. This will involve creating plasticine and playdoh animations by taking a series of photos, each a tiny bit different to the last, then running them together and adding sounds to bring them to life.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...

Science

Our next science unit will see us exploring light. We will explore how we see things, how light travels and the reasons why we can't see around corners. We will investigate shadows in more detail, planning and carrying out our own experiments to discover what factors affect the size of a shadow. Finally we will learn about refraction, and the way that this makes rainbows, lenses and prisms possible.

The Arts

Linked to our topic work, we will sketch rainforest creatures and habitats, improving our use of shading to create a sense of depth. We will then create 3d models of the rainforest using recycled items, thinking carefully about our choice of materials, so that they reflect the colours, textures, light and energy of the Amazon.

Maths

We will start the term by developing our understanding of shape, building (and naming) 3d shapes, matching them to 2d representations and using them to solve problems. After that, we will explore reflection and translation, working out what shapes will look like in a mirror or after they have been moved around coordinate grids. Later in the term, we will return to the topic of angles, developing our ability to measure, plot, name and calculate angles. Finally, we will return to our key calculation strategies, revising the use of written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and using these to solve increasingly complex problems.

Humanities

Geography - Rainforests

We will be learning about rainforest environments this term, discovering what makes them special, where they are found and what it's like to live there. We will plot rainforests on a variety of maps, linking their locations to the tropics, and will compare them with other environments we know about, such as deserts, mountains and local forests. We will also learn more about the different layers of the rainforest, comparing life on the forest floor with life in the treetop canopy.

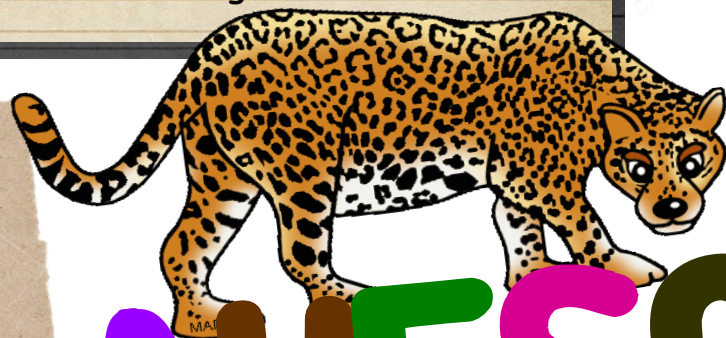
We will then focus in on the Amazon rainforest in particular, investigating the plants, animals, climate and indigenous people of this incredible area and discovering the effect that humans are having on the habitat.

English

So far in our Norse Myths unit we've explored the adventures of Thor, Odin and Loki, have written character descriptions and have practiced our oral storytelling skills. Now, therefore, it's time to plan and write our own mythical tales. We will begin by returning to our model text and looking at how *The Sons of Odin* is structured and how characters are developed. We will then collect ideas and plan new stories involving the Norse gods. In our writing, we will continue to focus on including lots of adverbial openers and conjunctions to link ideas and show when, where and how things are done. We will also be broadening the range of punctuation we use, in order to create dramatic, action-packed adventures of our own.

AWESOME AMAZON!

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PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- There are loads of apps for making stop-motion animations on phones and tablets, and these can be great fun to try out at home. Stop Motion Studio is a good (free) place to start - with a bit of plasticine you can make great movies!

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- There are lessons online to support our next topic at: classroom.thenational.academy/units/light-6f3a
- Investigate different sources of light, like fireflies and glow worms, or find out more about how the eye works.
- Make shadow puppets and think about the way that these are created.

The Arts

There are loads of craft projects linked to the Amazon you could have a go at - to get started, have a look at some of these sites:

www.toucanbox.com/activities/rainforest-crafts-at-home
www.lastchancetopaint.com/thecraftyclassroom.com/crafts/rainforest-art-projects-printables/

Maths

Quick recall of tables facts continues to be vital for so much of the maths we do, so keep practicing at home as much as possible. Focus on one table at a time and try:

- Making-up rhymes to help remember number facts ("4 x 6 is 24, bears growl and lions roar!")
- Looking for numbers in that table in the world around you - on doors, car number plates, in phone numbers or when you're out shopping.
- Writing-out tables with finger paints, chalk or water-on-tarmac, or make them from playdoh.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

Humanities

- There are loads of great documentary series that explore rainforest habitats and are well worth a watch - Planet Earth, Green Planet and Tropic of Capricorn are all available on BBC iplayer at the moment, with some great episodes on the Amazon and other rainforest environments around the world.
- The Young Person's Trust for the Environment site - ypte.org.uk - is packed with easy to grasp information on rainforests and the animals that are found in these regions.
- The BBC Bitesize site also has lots of images, clips and information about life in the Amazon (and the rest of Brazil) - head to www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvwmjvhv to get started.

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to listen to your child as often as possible and talk to them about what's happened so far and what they think might happen next.
- Spelling homework goes out every Thursday, so please help your child to learn these. You can find more advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf
- There are absolutely loads of versions of Viking myths available to read and watch. Try starting with the BBC's animated versions: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/viking-sagas-age-7-11

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