

## PE

Our focus will be on athletics as we prepare for our Sports Day in June. We will be developing our ability to run, jump and throw with power, as well as learning to run relays effectively. We will also be developing our use of warm-ups.

## Computing

Year 6 will be compiling our leavers books, drawing together our knowledge of design, word-processing, publishing and photography. We will be including information about favourite activities, experiences and friends, as well as lots of pictures.

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

## Science

Our final topic of the year will see us investigating electricity. We will extend our understanding of conductors, insulators and batteries, and then learn to draw circuit diagrams using standard symbols. We will also be carrying out lots of practical work, developing our ability to draw conclusions from results and learning about the work of famous scientists like Faraday and Maxwell.

## The Arts

Our big focus will continue to be our end-of-term production of *Aladdin*, and we will be practicing our singing and acting every day. In addition to that, in art we will be exploring *The Great Wave*, a print by the Japanese artist Hokusai. We will investigate the way this piece was made and make our own versions using a range of printing techniques.

## Maths

In Mrs Draper's maths group, we will be developing our understanding of algebra, using equations to represent and solve problems. We will also be applying our maths skills to Young Enterprise projects, calculating costs, profits and break-even points for products we design.

In Mr Roberts' set we will begin by focussing on statistics, using line graphs, pie charts and tables to represent data and answer questions. After that we will be exploring time, reading timetables (a really useful practical skill), as well as calculating with time.

Finally, in Miss Smith's maths class we will be focussing on shape, measure and problem solving.

## English

We will be continuing with our work around *Kensuke's Kingdom*, a fantastic book that tells the story of a young boy who gets stranded on a desert island in the Pacific. We will be using the story as a stimulus for lots of different types of writing, including diary entries, biographies, letters, newspaper articles and discussions. We will be thinking carefully about the way in which the characters of Michael (the boy) and Kensuke (the Japanese man who is the island's only other inhabitant) are introduced, and will also compare this story with others by the same author. All of this writing will give us lots of opportunities to revise the grammar and punctuation that we've met this year and show-off our awesome writing skills!

## Humanities

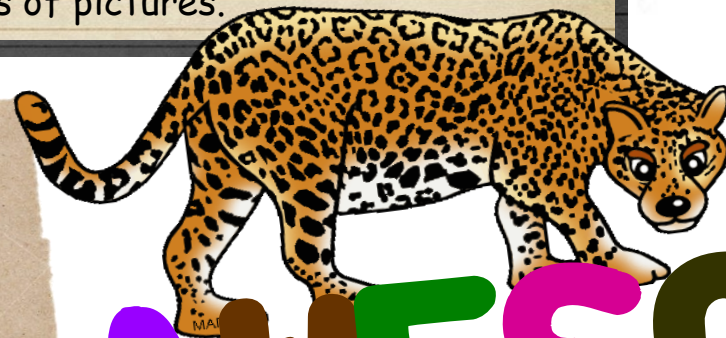
### Geography - Rainforests

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.

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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](http://www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement)

## Computing

While we're using Publisher to create leavers' books, think about how else you could use IT to capture memories - video could be a great way to do this, and there's a nice BBC Bitesize guide at [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/zyb72hv](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/zyb72hv)

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

## Science

- There are lots of opportunities to investigate electricity at home - which items in our house use electricity? What do they use it for? What makes them safe to use - make sure your children understand how dangerous mains power can be.
- There are lessons to support our topic on the Oak Academy site at [classroom.thenational.academy/electrical-circuits-06f7](http://classroom.thenational.academy/electrical-circuits-06f7)

## The Arts

- Keep practicing songs and scenes from Aladdin at home - you can find the whole soundtrack (or better still the stage show recording) on YouTube.
- The British Museum have an original print of The Great Wave - you can find out about it at: [www.britishmuseum.org/blog/great-wave-spot-difference](http://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/great-wave-spot-difference)

## 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](http://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/zvwmjvh](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvwmjvh) to get started.

## English

- Constant practice of reading is just about the most valuable thing you can do. Try to talk about what happened, what the characters are like and what 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](http://www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf)
- We're using Kensuke's Kingdom, a book by the fantastic author Michael Morpurgo as our stimulus this term - so it would be great if you could read, watch or listen to other stories by the same author. War Horse, The Butterfly Lion and Why the Whales Came are all great places to start.

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