

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 continue to swim every Tuesday.

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 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.

RESTLESS RAINFORESTS

FOXES - SUMMER 2023

English

We're focussing on persuasive writing in our final English unit of the year. We will be reading and watching lots of adverts, thinking about the techniques that they use to hook us in and then 'sell' places and products to us effectively. We will make persuasive presentations of our own, and will then focus in on persuasive letter writing, thinking about the way that writers structure their arguments to make them as effective as possible. All of this will feed into our final extended writing pieces, where we will be arguing to save the rainforest habitats that we have met in our geography topic.

Our spelling for the next few weeks will focus on homophones and words ending in -ant, -ance, -ious and -tious.

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.

Maths

We will begin the half-term by focussing on statistics, using line graphs, pie charts and tables to represent data and answer questions. We will carry out surveys and tests to collect our own data and then choose the right way to present our findings. We will also learn to find the mean of a data set. After that we will be exploring time, learning to read timetables (a really useful practical skill), as well as calculating with time. We will also make sure that we all know how to read the time accurately from analogue clocks. Throughout the term we will also be revising our arithmetic skills, particularly the use of written multiplication, short division and the addition of fractions.

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.



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 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

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/

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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 ("7 x 12 is 84, 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.

English

- Constant practice of reading 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
- Persuasive writing and speech is all around us (through adverts, posters and politics), so keep an eye out for good examples - how is something being 'sold' to you? What makes you want to buy the product or agree with someone?

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/zvwmjvh to get started.