

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 starting to use clever bits of kit called Micro:bits, which can be programmed to play games, solve problems and send messages. We will be using the MakeCode platform to write simple code, which we will adapt, explore and extend to complete tasks

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

Science

Changing materials

We will begin by looking at different ways in which we can sort and group materials. We will then investigate the way that materials change when mixed with water - which dissolve, which float, which form a paste... and why? We will explore the way that we can separate mixtures and learn about the difference between reversible and irreversible changes.

The Arts

In DT, we will be constructing models of river and mountain systems from a variety of materials. We will work in pairs to create table-top mountains from paper mache, as well as working in larger groups to construct larger (and wetter) representations of river systems from guttering, pipes and buckets of water!

Maths

We will be exploring the ideas of perimeter and area, learning what these terms mean and exploring different ways to measure them. We will discover how to calculate the area and perimeter of shapes made from rectangles, and will then use this understanding to solve problems. After that, we will return to our core calculation strategies, extending our understanding of multiplication and division and working out what to do when calculations leave a remainder. We will also investigate the use of inverse calculations to find starting values and check answers. Finally we will be developing our understanding of time, making sure we can tell the time accurately and solving timetable problems.

Humanities

Geography

We will continue to explore rivers and mountains over the next few weeks. We will look at different parts of river systems, understanding how they are formed, how they change over time, and how they interact with the landscapes they travel through (linking in with our next DT project). Following on from this, we will be focussing on mountain environments, locating the world's major mountains and ranges on a variety of maps and globes. We will discover the reasons why they are found by exploring the ways in which mountain ranges are formed and the reasons why they are found in particular parts of the world. We will round-off our unit positive and negative) on river and mountain environments around the world.

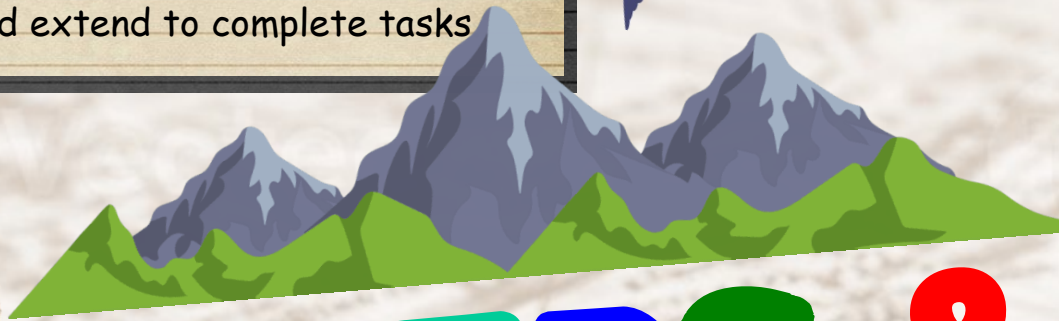
English

Our next unit will see us exploring descriptive writing, using *The Watertower* by Gary Crew as our core text. We will explore the characters, write sections of dialogue and then investigate the way the author uses figurative language to create tension. We will finish by writing a recount of a suspenseful event, using illustrations from the text as inspiration.

After that, we will shift our attention to explanations, building our lessons around *The Lost Book of Adventure*. We will explore the use of bullet points, colons and relative clauses to present information clearly. We will then write our own explanations, telling someone how to stay safe in a dangerous place.

RIVERS & MOUNTAINS

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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

- All of the tasks we've worked on in class are available at microbit.org. There are links to the MakeCode editor we've been using, loads of ideas in the projects library and lots more information about these clever devices.

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
- Our work with the Rebel Reading Society has inspired us to read more - check out their website, www.rebelreadingsociety.co.uk, for lots of ideas and author videos.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

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Science

- Keep a look out for examples of changing materials in everyday life. Cooking is great for this - which materials mix well together? Which dissolve in water (like salt or sugar)? Which are easy to separate (often with a sieve) and which are tricky? Can you spot any patterns in what you observe or predict what might happen next?

The Arts

There are lots of ways you could create artwork linked to our Rivers and Mountains topic at home. Try these sites to get started:

- barleyandbirch.com/make-torn-paper-landscape-art/
- www.tate.org.uk/kids/make
- www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities/build-river-model

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

- We're disappointingly short on rivers and mountains in our part of Hertfordshire, so if the opportunity arrives for a visit to an interesting riverside (on the way back from a day out or just for a Sunday afternoon walk), that'd be great. If you've ever been to the Alps, Scottish Highlands or anywhere else mountainous, sharing your experiences (and, better still, photos) would really help us to better understand what these environments are like.
- Learning where all of the places we're learning about actually are is a really important part of this topic, so break out a map or globe and track down the Himalayas, Andes, Alps, Nile, Amazon, Congo and other major mountains and rivers of the world.