

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 have had great fun seeing programming 'do things' by using Micro:bits, and we will be continuing to explore the potential of these fab pieces of kit this term. We will use the MakeCode platform to extend our code to control motors, send messages and make music!

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

We will start the term by returning to non-chronological reports, using the texts *The Street Beneath My Feet* and *The Skies Above My Eyes* to explore the way that writers organise their writing to make it both engaging and easy to navigate. We will focus on the use of fronted adverbials and commas to separate clauses, and will then use these to help us to write our own reports for a class book.

Later in the term we will return to story writing, using the story of *The Watchtower* by Gary Crew to explore the way that authors introduce characters. We will then experiment with different ways in which to add suspense to our writing, building up to writing exciting descriptive recounts.

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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.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Play around with torches, mirrors and reflection at home - can we use a mirror to see around the corner? Which clothes and materials reflect light best in the dark? How many different sources of light can you find around the house?
- 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 Better Planet Education site is packed with easy to grasp information on rainforests and the animals that are found in these regions - get started at betterplaneteducation.org.uk
- 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.

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
- Later in the term we'll be exploring the way that authors create suspense in their writing, so look out for tense or dramatic moments in books, films and TV - how have these feelings been created?

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