

Year 3/4 Autumn 1: The Maya Civilisation



Topic Overview: This half term will be a History Focus where we will be finding out about life of the ancient Maya.

Science: Our Science topic is 'Animals including Humans'. The children will be identifying the needs of animals and humans and they will explore the right amount of nutrition that each one requires. They will also identify and explore human and animal skeletons and explore how these skeletons help to support and protect them.

History: Our History topic is 'The Maya Civilisation.' The children will learn about where and when the Ancient Mayas lived and what was important to their daily lives. They will also study the Maya writing and number system, and the Maya Gods and their beliefs.

Computing: The children will be learning all about E-Safety during this term. They will explore the importance of keeping data and personal information safe online and how to share information safely.

French: During our French lessons, the children will be learning and exploring how to say hello and goodbye, responding and asking each other how they are feeling and introducing themselves through conversational responses.

Art and Design: To begin the term, the children will explore sculpting using paper mache to create a Maya warrior/death mask. The children will then be exploring using clay and tools to mould, carve and create an Ancient Maya calendar stone, pot or Mica art.

PE: During their PE lessons, the children will be doing gymnastics and invasion games. In gymnastics, the children will work to create sequences in pairs and in small groups looking at balancing in different ways. They will explore the concepts of counter-balance and counter-tension, mirroring and weight bearing to create a fluid and controlled performance. During their invasion games lessons, the children will develop their hand-eye coordination through mini team games. They will explore attacking and defending tactics and use these in mini team games.

English:

The class story we will be reading is 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' During our Bug Club session, we are reading 'While We Are Sleeping' and 'Hot Spots and Other Extreme Places to Live.'

We will be writing a non-chronological report about different aspects of the Maya lives. This will be followed by writing a mythical story based on the 'Hero Twins' story.

Jigsaw:

The topic for this half term is 'Being Me in My World'. During the term, we will be having class discussions around setting personal goals, and what we need do to achieve these. We will then move onto helping the children make responsible choices and discussing how their actions have an impact on others around them.

RE:

Our RE topic this term is all about the Jewish religion. Our key enquiry question that the children will be focusing on is, 'How special is the relationship Jews have with God?'

Maths:

Year 3:

Year 3 will be covering place value, addition and subtraction. We will be looking at numbers to 1000, number lines, and comparing and ordering numbers to 1000. We will then move onto mentally adding 3 digit numbers to 1 and 2 digit numbers before finally moving onto formal column methods with the above.

Year 4:

Year 4 will be covering place value, addition and subtraction. We will be looking at numbers to 10,000, number lines to 10,000, comparing and ordering numbers to 1000, negative numbers and Roman numerals. We will then move onto mentally adding 3 and 4 digit numbers before finally moving onto formal column methods with the above.

How you can help?

As always, your continued support with your child's learning is greatly appreciated. Please hear your child read regularly and sign their reading record. Support children in learning weekly spellings and times tables. Don't forget to log on to Bug Club for extra reading and grammar activities.

Homework:

We will continue to send out a half termly homework menu, from which the children can select the activities they would like to complete. Please enjoy spending time completing this homework with your child in their homework book.