

Medium term planner – Environmental Detectives

Title & duration: Environmental Detectives

Year group: Y3: Autumn

Description/Intent: The children will research our local area, the environment and way of life whilst comparing and contrasting this to the Amazon Rainforest. They will look at world maps and locate the continents, Rainforests, hemispheres and significant countries. They will identify the similarities and differences between the two locations, with special attention paid to the way of life in the Rainforest, including food, climate, homes, animals and trees and plants. Children will widen their knowledge of location and cultures which are different to their own and appreciate the variety within the wider world. They will explore current issues relating to the contrasting environments.

Hook: The children will receive a letter from a boy called Kamanya who lives in the Amazon Rainforest. He will ask lots of questions about our way of life, which will lead the children to research what life is like in the Amazon Rainforest and make comparisons. By the end of the unit the children will compose a letter sharing what they have learnt. In addition to this the children will take part in a visit to the Sustainability Centre to learn about our environment where they are encouraged to pause and reflect upon the importance and variety of tree species.

Geography

Throughout this theme, children will be using their map skills to identify the location of Rainforests in the world as well as the location of the Equator, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and key countries of the world. The children will locate where they live in relation to the rainforest. They will learn about different environments, specifically the rainforest in contrast to our own environment, with attention paid to the climate, animal and landscape differences, which include the four different layers. They will investigate and create maps using Ordnance Survey symbols and develop basic orienteering skills.

New Media:

Children will spend time using web searches on both the iPads and computers. They will be introduced to Publisher in order to present knowledge gathered from the theme. Games and resources will be used on the IWB in order to expose children to a variety of ICT.

Application subject: Art – Children will be presented with their own paint palette which they must use throughout their time at Herne. They will spend time learning how to use and care for their palette. They will learn how to create different shades and tones and link these to their emotions.

Science

Children will begin the year investigating light and shadows. They will use practical resources to investigate concepts like reflection, light travel and the effect of different materials on light. They will also recognise the importance of sun safety. Later on in the Theme the children will become Rock Detectives, learning about different types of rocks and soils, and how these affect their environment. This includes learning about fossilisation.

English

Children will cover a number of different genres, including familiar setting descriptions, poetry, information text and letter writing. They will plan, write, edit and present their written work. They will also be exposed to a number of skills units, where they will learn the appropriate SPaG objectives, in line with the new curriculum. Throughout the term we will then give the children the opportunity to apply their literacy skills to a variety of stimuli.

Quality Texts

- The Great Kapok Tree,
- Shaman's Apprentice,
- The Tunnel, Anthony Brown
- The Vanishing Rainforest
- Riotous Rainforests

Application subject: Music – Painting with sound – focus on listening, interpreting, improvising and composing their own pieces in response to various stimuli.

Outcome: By the end of the unit the children will have visited local environments; including those on the school grounds, as well as the Sustainability Centre. They compare this to their research of the Amazon Rainforest. Every child will have a theme book with a range of work from the topic. They will have setting descriptions of various different environments' in their Literacy books as well as information texts about rainforests. They will produce a letter to send back to Kamanya in the Amazon Rainforest.

Potential links to local, national, international communities: A trip to a local conservation project – The Sustainability Centre.

RRR and Values Links: Children will spend the first half of the term focussing on class charters, school values and safety. They will then go onto researching the threats of the rainforest and how to prevent these, with a focus on habitat loss.

Home Link: independent research about rainforests (non-compulsory).