



Medium term planner – Raiders of the lost Mayans.

Title and duration: Raiders of the lost Mayans

Year group: Year 6

Description/Intent: The children will be learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation. This will include looking closely at: social structure, religion, farming and food, religious temples, the number system, star gazing and the calendar. During the unit children will be able to make a comparison between this civilisation and what was occurring in Britain at the same time. The children will gain an understanding of the terms 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.

Hook: Children will participate in a 'Timeline Treasure Hunt' placing key historical events on a timeline. This will give the children a greater understanding of when civilisations flourished in comparison to one another. Children will also make Mayan styled flatbreads as a way of introducing the topic.

Learning value 1:

- Children will collaborate through researching, presenting and sharing aspects of the Mayan culture.

Learning value 2:

- Independent work: Children will form their own opinions about the decline of the Mayan Civilisation through their research.

ICT – Using I pads, children will research about the Mayans and learn how to create notes. As part of a marketing campaign, they will use Serif Draw Plus to design a logo for their Mayan flatbread and Audacity to advertise their product.

Dance–There will be a particular focus on rhythm. The children will investigate dance during that period and its use in storytelling. They will use various aspects of Mayan daily life to inform their movements.

History:

The children will be learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation. This will include looking closely at: social structure, religion, farming and food, religious temples, the number system, star gazing and the calendar. During the unit children will be able to make a comparison between this civilisation and what was occurring in Britain at the same time. The children will gain an understanding of the terms 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry' as well as investigate primary and secondary historical sources. The use of these sources will enable the children to decide upon possible reasons for the decline of the Mayan civilisation.

Quality Texts:

Non-fiction Mayan research material

Literacy –Children will write as historians using a variety of historic sources to argue why the Mayan civilisation declined. They will create their own Mayan God and describe a meeting with this angered God. They will write an explanatory text, describing a ceremony needed to appease their God. The children will develop their close reading skills to produce a picture of a Mayan God based on a range of descriptions. They will also use their research into the Mayan social structure to choose a role that they would enjoy giving reasons.

Application subject: Art – Children will investigate their use of oil pastels and will learn how to draw in one-point perspective. This will result in children producing a Mayan temple. They will also investigate and produce a Mayan mask made out of clay. DT – Children will make and design a Mayan flatbread using seasonal vegetables and products. RE – the children learn about 'The Easter Story' and make direct links with the sacrificial elements of Mayan civilisation.

Outcome: The children will produce a homework project on an aspect of the Mayan civilisation to present to the rest of the class. They will also produce a high quality topic book showcasing all of their work from the term.

Potential links to local, national, international communities: There will be a particular focus on the Mayan civilisation and how it has influenced other countries in the world today. We link this study to current findings relating to the size and significance of this civilization.

RRR and Values Links: The children will learn about 'The World of Work' and 'RR and the Law'. This will make an interesting comparison to the social structure and judicial system used by the Mayan society.

Home study: There will be an individual research project on an aspect of the Mayans.