

Year 5 Autumn Term Learning: Animal Welfare

English

This term we are looking at animal welfare around the world. To begin with, we are examining the fur fashion industry and how animals are treated. Following this, we will then be using F.F Van de Water's poem 'To a Fur Scarf', to explore the way animal fur is obtained. We will then be looking at suitable alternatives to real fur and the benefits of these.

Currently, we are looking at animal captivity. So far we have discussed the many disadvantages and will now move onto the many advantages, such as: providing medical attention, preventing extinction due to mating programmes, educating and teaching people and conservation projects. Following this, we are having a visit from an RSPCA representative who will discuss with pupils the responsibility of owning a pet and how we can be more aware of animals' feelings by interpreting their body language.



Science

In Science we are studying the topic 'Properties and Changes of Materials'. So far, we have compared and grouped together everyday materials on the basis of their properties and identified suitable materials for specific usages. We are now starting to learn about solids, liquids and gases and looking at how mixtures can be separated through filtering, sieving and evaporating, decanting and magnetism. This topic will allow pupils to build a more systematic understanding of reversible and irreversible changes and recognise that melting and dissolving are different processes.



Topic

Our topic for this term is, 'What is India doing to save the tiger?'

So far, we have looked at tiger characteristics (size, weight, appearance, behaviour and diet) and where in the world they can be found. Furthermore, pupils have researched why tiger numbers have declined so drastically during the past century and observed what can be done to prevent this. With links to Literacy, pupils have identified the benefits of conservation programmes and will next refine their research and look at India specifically. Next, pupils will make reasoned judgements about India's climate; evaluate why the annual arrival of the monsoon rains are so vital and describe and critique the methods used by mathematicians to count the number of tigers in India.



Art & Design

Our focus for Art and Design is the work of Henri Rousseau.

We have researched this great artist and identified his primitive style focusing heavily on his well-known painting 'Tiger in a Storm'. Through the application of water colour skills pupils have explored blending two or more colours, collating their findings on a record palette, before attempting to match the exact tones seen on the 'Tiger in a Storm' painting. Brush fluency was developed through mark making and paint/water combinations. The children learnt that watercolours are more accurate with expressive, confident strokes on specialised paper.

