

Curriculum Information

Sycamore, Rowan & Larch

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www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



Our topic for this half term is... *Adventures Under The Canopy:*

This includes:

Geography – Rainforests

Children will begin by locating rainforests on a world map and using maps of varying scales to identify and name continents and countries which have rainforests in them. They will then explore the four layers of rainforest vegetation (the emergent layer, canopy, under storey and forest floor) and explore the different kinds of plants and animals that can be found at each layer. Through the use of graphs and charts, children will also find out about the unique role the rainforests play in the water cycle and about convectional rainfall in rainforest environments before progressing to look at some of the indigenous tribes that actually live in the rainforests, especially the Yanomami tribe, and examining their way of life. Children will end their work on rainforests by exploring the threats that rainforests are facing and some of the reasons behind deforestation as well as the effects this has on the animals, plant and people who live in the rainforests and beyond.

Geography – South America

Children will begin by identifying South America on a world map and finding out about the twelve countries and two territories that make up the fourth largest continent in the world. They will find out about the various climates across South America using climate maps and keys, from the rainforests of Brazil to the deserts of Chile. Children will then progress to learning about the longest mountain range in the world, the Andes. They will find out the location, length and elevation of this major mountain range, as well as how the Andes are used by the people who live on or near them, from farming to tourism. After defining the difference between human and physical geography, the children will have the chance to explore some of the aspects of human geography of South America, including populations, life expectancies, religions and capital cities. Finally, children will explore the concept of world trade and look at some of the major industries in different South American countries and their main exports.

Art – Henri Rousseau's Jungle

Children will explore and replicate the Art of Henri Rousseau. They will improve their mastery of art techniques by using bold contrasting colours and repeated shapes and form when drawing and painting in the style of Rousseau.

Design and Technology – Wire Birds

Children will use a variety of creative ideas to research and develop the making of wire birds. They will begin the design process by exploring ideas through annotated sketches. Using a range of tools, children will begin to cut, shape and join wire sculptures whilst also developing their understanding of how to effectively strengthen and reinforce such structures. Children will then use Modroc to produce their final 3D product. At the end of the topic, children will evaluate their finished product against their original design criteria and consider the views of others to suggest improvement to their work.

Science – Living things and their habitats

Children will begin by locating the different parts of everyday plants and describing their different functions. They will then progress to identifying these on a variety of different rainforest plants including kapok trees and giant water lilies. After recapping where the Amazon rainforest is on a map, children will explore some of the animals found in the rainforest and use branching databases to both identify and describe each one. Having identified some animals of the Amazon rainforest, children will progress to classifying these animals into different groups according to various criteria: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and insects. Using the terms carnivore, herbivore, omnivore and producer, children will create their own food chains to show feeding relationships in the rainforest.



Science – Diet, Drugs, Exercise and Body Changes

Children will begin by identifying and naming the main parts of the human circulatory system, as well as describing the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. They will learn about the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function, explaining how to keep their bodies healthy and how their bodies might be damaged, including how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body. They will work scientifically by exploring the work of scientists about the relationship between diet, exercise, drugs, lifestyle, health

Computing – Nature Documentary inspired by David Attenborough, Jane Goodall and Bear Grylls

Children will begin by researching different documentaries linked to work of significant individuals within this field to develop their understanding of the factual information that will be required. In teams, they will progress to creating both a script and a storyboard for their documentary before then researching, and saving, the different backgrounds required for their screening. Working from their finalised plans, children will then film their documentary in front of a green screen. Once the filming is complete, the children will edit and add their background to the film.

Other subjects:

P.E. Swimming, Netball, Badminton and Cricket Coaching **R.E** Judaism: Beliefs, Practices and Founders

P.S.H.E Health and Wellbeing **French** Animal Names **Music** Charanga

English:

Arguments and Debates, Stories with flashbacks (Temple Run – Jungle Trek), Debate Poetry and Persuasive Writing (The Tin Forest, Wayne Anderson)



Mathematics:

Year 5: Statistics, Multiplication & Division, Fractions, Decimals & Percentages, Area and Perimeter

Year 6: Decimals and Percentages, Algebra, Measure, Ratio and Geometry

For specific learning objectives and coverage in English and Maths, please speak to your child's class teacher or look at the Spring term planning document on the school website within your child's class page

Homework & Spellings:

Weekly Tasks: Every Monday, your child will be set two homework tasks: one English and one Maths. They will have until the following Monday to complete them. Their homework tasks may be written comprehension, punctuation and grammar, written pieces or online tasks from Sumdog or School 360. They will be based upon what they have been learning in class in order to consolidate their new knowledge, skills and understanding.

Spellings: Spellings will be set and tested each Monday.

Mental Maths: J2Blast on School360 and Times Table Rockstars should be used by the children on a weekly basis to develop their times tables skills. Mental maths skills will be tested on a weekly basis.

Reading: Guided Reading will take place on a weekly basis (Larch and Sycamore: Monday / Rowan: Wednesday) ***Please ensure that both yourself and your child comment regularly in the reading record. Also, it is important that your child reads a range of literature (magazines, books, newspapers) for at least one hour per week so please encourage them to use both the school library and local library.*

Planners: Children will record homework, PE days and important dates in these. We ask that you sign their planner every week, it is also available to communicate with your child's teacher.

Pencil cases: We would like to encourage all children to have a pencil case at school. As a minimum, each child's pencil case should contain: two black biro pens, a pencil and sharpener, a ruler and a rubber, this being in preparation for High School.

PE Kits: Children must have both an indoor and outdoor PE Kit in school on a Friday along with appropriate footwear. The school's expectations of these kits can be found in your child's planner (Page 5).

Wellies and outdoor shoes: Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies or outdoor shoes available in school at all times for playtime as well as outdoor learning activities.

Please use the school website to keep up to date with your child's learning. Teachers regularly update their class pages with photographs and important information for parents.