

Year 2

Term – Spring 1

Science

Biology - Living things and their habitats

This year we have increased our learning through investigation. Each half term we have a concluding investigation question that we try to solve based on what we have learnt during the half term. Our question this term is:

What habitat would be best for different types of animals?

In order to answer this question they will be learning: That things can be living, dead or never been alive. You tell if something is living including plants by identifying the 7 key indicators of life: movement, respiration, sensitivity, nutrition, excretion, reproduction and growth. (MRS NERG for short). Living things live in habitats which provide them with the conditions they need to live and within these habitats are microhabitats which are small areas such as a tree in a park. Minibeasts are animals and live in our school in microhabitats.

This term we will be learning about...

UK Rivers



Key Information

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our fact organiser for the year 2 Geography topic about UK Rivers. It shows, in detail, the questions the children are going to be investigating and learning about. There are links to helpful websites about the topic which you can use to support your child's learning about the topic. There is also a list of the key vocabulary your children should be able to use to explain their thinking.

We hope you find this helpful.

PSHE

My Safety

This term we will be learning about how we can stay safe in the world and virtually. Children will explore what to do if they feel unsafe, who trusted adults are and how to identify and combat different types of bullying. A range of strategies will also be covered to help children regulate strong emotions and use their voice to fix problems.

English

In reading, children will be practising reading text at length. They will be able to infer about events and characters in the new text. They will be choosing effective language and explaining the meanings of words. In writing, the children will be learning to write descriptively using interesting adjectives and synonyms. They will also be learning how to write information texts. As well as all of this they will be using capital letters for proper nouns and including conjunctions in their writing.

This half term's key text is **River Story by Meredith Hooper**

RE

In RE children will be focusing on the idea of peace and what it means in different contexts. Peace will then be explored through the perspectives of different religions. The children will discuss what peace means to them as well as, making links with RSHE topics.

Mathematics

This term children will be focussing on all of their arithmetic operations. This includes addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. A range of strategies will be taught to the children including dienes drawings and column method. Times tables will also be introduced, children will learn and be encouraged to practise their 2,5 and 10 times table multiplication and division facts.

This will be supported by the Times Table Rock Stars programme which can be accessed by all children at home. If you are not sure where to find this please speak to your child's teacher.

Computing

In computing children will build on their programming skills. Beebots will be used to familiarise children with programming algorithms, commands and terminology. The children will have lots of practical experience writing and programming for different purposes as well as debugging when an algorithm does not work.

You might like to join in with our learning at home by:

Reading




- **Challenge yourself to get your bronze, silver and gold certificate.**

Watching <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK3bgjiEEk>

Doing

- **Speak to a member of your family and discuss what rivers they are familiar with. What rivers have they visited/seen before? Which rivers are they aware of? What did they see and do when they were near the river?**

Year 2 - Geography. Final Enquiry: Should we start to use canals for moving goods again?

Theme	Learning Goal	Key Questions to be asked	Answers
	The Earth has many different and unique bodies of water.	What bodies of water are there? What is the longest river in the UK? Why is the River Thames important? What significant rivers are in Scotland?	Bodies of water include: oceans, seas, rivers, lakes which can be identified on a variety of maps. The River Severn which divides England and Wales is the longest river in the UK. The River Thames is important due to the places it travels through. The Rivers Tay and Clyde and both important rivers in Scotland due to the trades that use them.
	All rivers have things in common.	Where do rivers begin? What happens in the middle course of a river? What happens in the lower course of a river?	The water cycle determines the source of a river. The source is usually small but expands rapidly. The middle course of a river is the fastest and widest part most likely to be used by humans. The lower course is also called the river mouth and is flat and fertile making it ideal for farming.
	People have built and used their own waterways.	Why did people build canals? Why were canals important in the past? How are canals used today?	Canals are a human made waterway designed to transport large loads. Before air transport, canals were used to transport goods throughout the UK much faster than by road. Canals are used largely for recreation and tourism or to add interest to an area otherwise devoid of water.

Maps



The maps show the geographical context of the rivers. The first map shows the British Isles. The second map highlights England and Wales with major rivers. The third map, titled 'Map of the River Severn', shows the river's course from the Cambrian mountains in Wales to the Severn estuary near Cardiff. The fourth map, titled 'Map of River Thames', shows the river's course from the Thames Head near Kemble to the Thames estuary near Southend-on-Sea.

Useful websites
https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/z7w8pq8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M48ANM3hAQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NRJkmyqgPY&t=229s
https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/why-are-rivers-so-important-and-how-can-we-protect-them

	Physical features
River Thames Second longest river in the UK	Source: Thames Head near Kemble Mouth: Thames estuary, Southend on Sea Key Places: London, Oxford, Windsor
River Severn Longest river in the UK	Source: Cambrian mountains, Wales Mouth: Severn estuary near Cardiff Key places: Shrewsbury, Worcester, Gloucester, Bristol
River Tay Longest river in Scotland	Source: Ben Lui, Argyll Scotland Mouth: Firth of Tay, Dundee Key places: Strathtay, Perth, Highlands
River Clyde Third longest river in Scotland	Source: Lowther Hill, South Lanarkshire Mouth: Firth of Clyde, Port Glasgow Key places: Glasgow, Southern uplands

Human features	
Canals	
First built by:	The Romans
Purpose:	Join major rivers to speed up inland transport.
Height of Development	Industrial revolution 1790s to 1890s when trains began to replace them.
Current development	Increasing in use for leisure purposes. Many abandoned or derelict canals have been re-opened.

Key Vocabulary	
sea	vegetation
lake	clean
canal	dirty
stream	transport
source	
mouth	
speed	
flow	
work	
leisure	

Geographical skills (Disciplinary Knowledge)	
Enquiry / Fieldwork	
Ask questions to find out about something unfamiliar to them.	
Answer own questions about how something works.	
Use aerial photos and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features.	
Look carefully at pictures / objects to find information.	
Make observations about why things happen.	
Describe objects, people and events.	
Draw labelled diagrams to show what I know about a topic.	
Write simple stories and recounts about a topic.	