

Year 3

Term – Spring 1

Science

Rocks:

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 soil have the gardeners used in our gardens to support plant growth?

In order to answer this question they will be learning: rock is a naturally occurring material. There are different types of rock e.g. sandstone, limestone, slate etc. which have different properties. Rocks can be hard or soft. They have different sizes of grain or crystal. They may absorb water. Rocks can be different shapes and sizes (stones, pebbles, boulders). Soils are made up of pieces of ground down rock which may be mixed with plant and animal material (organic matter).

This term we will be learning about...
Volcanoes and Earthquakes



Key Information

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our fact organiser for the year 3 Geography topic about Volcanoes and Earthquakes. 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. As part of their Geography topic, Year 3 will be visiting the Natural History Museum on 29.01.2025. We hope you find this helpful.

PSHE

This half term, our topic for PSHE is 'Safety'. Children are going to discuss boundaries which are lines that other people should not cross physically or emotionally. They are also going to discuss what good and bad secrets are and how people around us can help us to be safe. Children will also learn about what is online safety and will find strategies that they can use if they do not feel safe.

English

We will be reading the text **Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit**. Using the text, we will write a recount of the story and create an information text about volcanoes. Children will create a setting and characters. We will use a range of adverbs to express time, place and cause as well as conjunctions. Children will learn how to use fronted adverbials and adjectival phrases in their information text. At the end of this term, we will also learn about poetry. Children will practise how to write in verses and stanzas. They will include ambitious vocabulary and will vary the sentence structure to make it more interesting. They also will read the poem aloud using intonation and expression.

RE

In RE this term year 3 will be applying their knowledge about religion to 21st century living. We will be learning about 2 important symbols found in a synagogue and describe their important features, connecting them to Jewish beliefs and Jewish people's lives in 21st century.

Mathematics

This half term, children will develop their knowledge of multiplication and division to solve problems. In this unit children develop their understanding of the multiplicative properties of numbers. Children will continue to practice their division skills and will be introduced to remainders when dividing. They will consider how the inverse of multiplication and division can be used to check our answers. They will use key vocabulary to compare multiplication and division calculations. They will also practice multiplying a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number and dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number.

Computing

The topic in computing is "Sequencing Sounds". During this half term, children are going to create sequences through a website which is called "Scratch". They are going to create different sprites with characters and they are going to control the commands with sounds and movements.

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

Reading

- Use the library and read non fiction books about rocks and natural disasters.




Watching

Newsround for stories about fossil fuels, volcanoes and earthquakes.

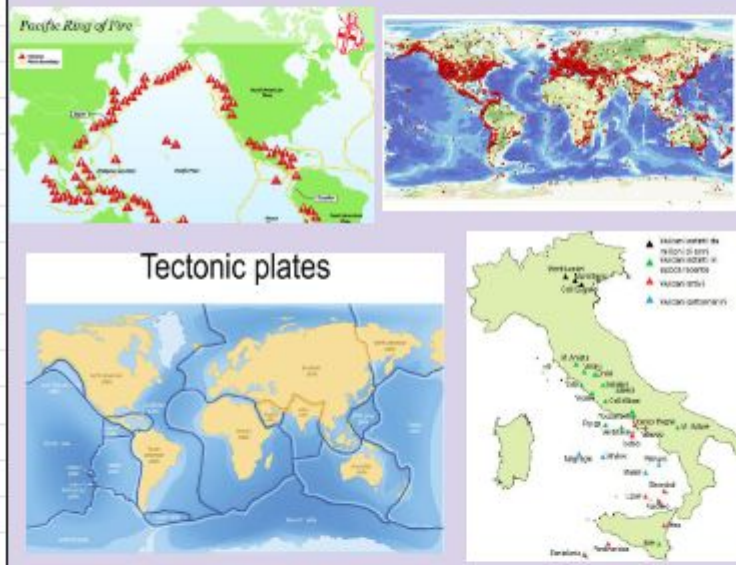
Doing

- Research types of rocks, soils and fossil fuels.
- Practise your time tables by using TT rockstars. <https://trockstars.com/>



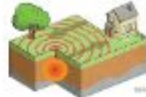

Year 3 - Geography. Final Enquiry: Are earthquakes and volcanic eruptions only ever disasters?

Theme	Learning Goal	Key Questions to be asked	Answers
	Our planet is formed of many different layers.	How is our planet structured? Why isn't the crust one solid piece? Where do volcanoes and earthquakes happen?	Earth is made up of 4 distinct layers: crust, mantle, outer core and inner core. We live on the crust. The crust is made up of plates which allow gases and magma to escape in predictable places. Volcanoes and earthquakes happen on fault lines where plates meet.
	The Earth's structure causes volcanoes and earthquakes.	What causes an earthquake? How do volcanoes work? How are volcanoes and earthquakes connected?	Earthquakes happen when plates move closer, further away or against each other. Volcanic eruptions can be fast flowing and explosive; slow flowing or mainly ash, dust and gases. They are both due to plate movement. This is also true of tsunamis which result from underwater eruptions.
	Volcanoes and earthquakes can be advantageous to the environment.	What happens after a volcanic eruption or earthquake? How do people benefit from living in an earthquake zone? How are earthquakes measured?	Despite immediate devastating consequences there are long term benefits to the land from eruptions. People build safer, stronger buildings and infrastructure which protects them even without quakes. We can use a formal method like the richter scale or an informal method like the Mercalli scale.

Maps



Physical features / processes

	Crust: outermost shell, solid rock and minerals. Mantle: widest layer, rock which acts like a fluid. Outer core: mostly liquid iron and nickel Inner core: solid ball mostly made of iron.
	Volcano: a mountain having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas erupted from the earth's crust
	Earthquake: the sudden release of strain energy in the Earth's crust, resulting in waves of shaking that radiate outwards
	Tsunamis: giant waves caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions under the sea. They speed along as fast as jet planes.

Key Vocabulary

earthquake	eruption
volcano	blast
crust	ash
mantle	gas
inner core	pressure
outer core	lava
plates	crater
aftershock	effects
disaster	measuring
magma	scale

Geographical skills (Disciplinary Knowledge)

Interpretation

- Explain why people might make the decisions they do.
- Describe an event from a different point of view
- State similarities and differences between two different events / places.
- Label evidence describing what it shows.



Useful websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrj6qwx>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/zi89t39>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/45996556>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIZ4aSKT3mo>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zww4nbk/revision/3>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59ty-ta1wyI>

Human features / processes

Richter scale:	a scale for expressing the magnitude of an earthquake on the basis of seismograph.
Mercalli scale:	a twelve-point scale for expressing the local intensity of an earthquake, ranging from I (virtually imperceptible) to XII (total destruction).
Disaster response	Immediate: Search and rescue, safety
	Short term: Clean up Long term: minimising future damage