

Year 5/6 Newsletter

Fenstanton and Hilton
Primary School



Summer 2 2024

What we are learning about:

Our topic/theme this half term is:

How were the Mayan's compared to western civilisations?

We will be learning:

In Topic,

In Science, we will be exploring how animals and plants are adapted to the environment in which they live. We will learn that adaptations occur over time and that may lead to a species evolving. We will conduct an experiment to answer the question; which beak is best adapted to pick up a seed? We will consider how certain adaptations occur in response to environmental conditions. We will learn about natural selection and how this links to inheritance and how some characteristics are inherited from parents and some are not. We will consolidate previous learning on fossilisation and understand how studying fossils has helped explain the theory of evolution.

In history, we will be learning about the Maya. We will consider how this civilisation from central America was able to survive in the rainforest environment they lived in and spend time comparing them to the Anglo-Saxons, who were inhabiting the British Isles at about the same time. We will explore where and when the Maya lived, the challenges they faced living in the rainforest, the importance of their gods and goddesses, how they constructed their cities and the reasons for the decline of the Maya.

Key Vocabulary:

English – noun, expanded noun phrase, relative clause, parenthesis, subordinate clause, brackets, dashes, colon, semi-colon, possessive apostrophe, coordinate clause, conjunction, adverbial

Topic – abandon, Classic period, decline, deforestation, drought, hieroglyphics, pyramid, slash and burn, tropical rainforest

Science – adaptation, environment, evolution, gene, natural selection, inheritance organism, species

English:

In English, we will be applying our setting description and dialogue skills through writing a warning story. We will then look at the use of verbs, adverbs and parenthesis when writing instructions. In addition, Year 6 will be developing their spoken language skills through the performance of a play. Year 5 will focus on polishing their spelling, grammar and handwriting skills in preparation for their fast-approaching time in Year 6.

Mathematics:

In maths, we will be revisiting areas of the curriculum we have covered this year. We will spend our time recapping areas like formal and mental multiplication, fractions, decimals and percentages. Additionally, we will be looking at investigations where we can work systematically to support understanding of how we can work in this way to answer mathematical problems.