Year 5/6 Newsletter

What we are learning about: Africa

Spring 1 2025

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Amazing Africa: Kenya and Trade

The Shang Dynasty
1766 BCE – 1027 BCE
CHINA

We will be learning:

In topic, we will be learning about the physical and human geographical features of Kenya. We will compare topographical features in Kenya (The Rift Valley) and the UK (Vale of Eden). We will then look at the impact of Fair Trade on Kenya traders and map the history of colonialism in Kenya. In DT we will explore Maasai textiles and design an item of clothing using Maasai patterns.

In science, we will learn about the different stages of the human life cycle. We look at a simple timeline first before going into more depth about how a foetus develops in the womb, the common changes that occur during puberty (e.g. spots) and the changes that occur in old age. This topic will be revisited in greater detail during our RSE units.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths – fraction, whole, numerator, denominator, proper fraction, improper fraction, mixed number fraction, lowest common multiple, lowest common denominator, simplify, simplest form, equivalent, decimal, tenth, hundredth, thousandth, percentage, out-of-one-hundred.

English – Title, subheading, caption, colon, non-fiction, poetry, rhythm, performance

Topic – longitude, latitude, colony, republic, agriculture, trade, Maasai

Science - birth, fertilization, death, develop, egg, foetus, puberty, sperm, womb

English:

In English, we will be using a book called The Wonder Garden, which has lots of descriptive language about habitats and the animals that live in them, to produce some interesting non-chronological reports linked to our topic. The children will explore the language and features of the text and then research information about the African Savannah and the creatures that live there. They will then use this information to produce a non-chronological report on the African Savannah.

Later in the half-term, we will be looking at the poetry of Maya Angelou. We will consider how poetry can be performed and the techniques poets use to make their performances engaging and interesting for their audience.

Mathematics:

Maths will be a continuation of the fractions work we started before Christmas. Having looked at equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions, we will use these to add and subtract fractions. Year 5 will work towards doing this with fractions where one denominator is a multiple of the other
e.g. $1/3 + 3/12 = 4/12 + 3/12 = 7/12$.
Year 6 will do the same but where a lowest common multiple (LCM) will need to be found to calculate the lowest common denominator (LCD)
e.g. $2/3 + 3/5 = 10/15 + 9/15 = 19/15$.
We will use fractions to find fractions of amounts e.g. $3/5$ of 250 = 150
Later in the term, we will begin to look at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages.