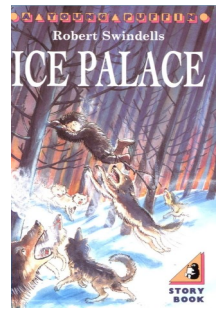




The BIG Question:
What is it like to be an explorer?



Introduction

Our cross-curricular topic this term is called 'The Ice Palace', which is based on Historical and Geographical skills. The story of 'The Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells is used to create stimuli to inspire and excite the children when completing written tasks. Children will learn about the extraordinary explorers who travelled around the world, focusing on: Captain Scott, Columbus, Cook and Edmund Hillary. Through learning about these explorers children develop geographical skills by using a range of Atlas', Maps and other technology.

Throughout the half term children will take part in a range of learning opportunities. The children will be studying 'The Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells. This book is about a boy (Ivan) who receives some disheartening news about his brother who has been kidnapped by Starjik. Ivan ventures into the forest and discovers the cavern where Starjik lives. Using this story as a hook to children's learning allows them to access a broadened curriculum. In Science, children learn about Keeping Warm. In this topic they create jackets for Ivan whilst he is on his quest. Additionally, we use the topic book to create a range of Art pieces, ranging from snowy animals to Polar Bears and Owl made from Mod Roc.

Books we will share

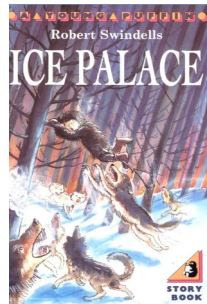
The Ice Palace by Robert Swindells

Ice Bear by Nicola Davies

The Great Explorer by Chris Judge

The Bear by Raymond Briggs

Scott of the Antarctic by Evelyn Dowdeswell



Some of our Super Skills

Hi23 Ask and answer a variety of perceptive historical questions

Hi28 Place events, people and changes into correct periods of time on a timeline

Hi31 Communicate knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways

Ge33 Ask and respond to geographical questions and offer their own ideas

Ge34 Explore places with different climate zones and compare and describe how climate affects living things

Ge35 Identify where significant places are located in the UK, Europe and the wider world

Ge41 Interpret information from different types of atlases, globes, maps and plans at a range of scales

Dt30 Evaluate work, adapting and improving through the views of others to improve their work

Dt31 Communicate design ideas in different ways e.g. discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional diagrams and prototypes

Dt32 Select from and use a range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities

Ar66 Modelling and Sculpting Show an understanding of shape, space and form

Ar67 Modelling and Sculpting Plan, design, make and adapt models using a variety of materials

Ar68 Modelling and Sculpting Talk about their work, understanding that it has been sculpted, modelled or constructed

Our Community and Beyond

How does your topic sit within our school community? How are you making your topic 'real'? (this is easier with some topics than others)

Content and Vocabulary

Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451. He was Italian. When he grew up he became a great explorer who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, hoping to find a route to India. In October 1492 they spotted the Caribbean islands off the coast of America. They landed on an island they named it San Salvador. They were met by the native people. Many of these people were captured by Columbus' men and later sold as slaves. Columbus thought he had made it to India, and called this area the Indies, and called it's the people who lived there Indians. Columbus didn't know it at the time but he had discovered a new part of the world. Many people moved to the Americas after his great discovery. It became known as The New World.



Captain James Cook

He had a great interest in astronomy. In 1755, he joined the Royal Navy and he learned to sail. He also developed his skills in making maps, and was so good that, in 1768, he was promoted to commander of a ship called the HMS Endeavour. In 1769, the planet Venus was due to pass in front of the Sun, a rare event visible only in the southern hemisphere. The British government sent an expedition to observe this event and as commander of HMS Endeavour, Cook led this expedition.

Robert Falcon Scott

Captain Robert Falcon Scott was born in Devon in 1868 and became an officer in the Royal Navy.

- He led two expeditions to Antarctica. The first took place between 1901 – 1904. In 1910, he sailed out for his second voyage there.
- The purpose of the expeditions was to find out more about the animals, the weather and the land of Antarctica.
- Scott and his fellow explorers also wanted to be the first to reach the South Pole.



Edmund Hillary

He was born in Auckland, New Zealand on 20th of July 1919, so he was 33 when he climbed Everest. They reached the summit at 11:30 am. Hillary took Tenzing's photo, but Tenzing didn't know how to use a camera, so there is no photo of Hillary in the summit. Hillary also went to the Antarctica (South Pole) in 1958, and later, to the North Pole He died in 2008, at the age of 88.



Some Key Facts/Events

In 1464 Christopher Columbus set sail at the ages of 13 to return home as a wealthy man.

36 days after setting sail, an island was spotted in the distance. He names this island San Salvador which is in the Bahamas.

Captain James Cook was born in 1728 in Yorkshire.

Cook sailed across the Pacific Ocean and spotted Australia on 1770.

On Cook's 3rd and last voyage in 1779 he was involved in a dispute with a Hawaiian tribe and was captured and killed.

Captain Robert Falcon Scott led two expeditions to Antarctica between 1901-1910. His purpose was to find out about the animals and the weather.

Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland, New Zealand on 20th July 1919.

In 1953 Edmund Hillary (age 33) was the first man to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

My Magic Moments

For children's comment at the end of the topic

Ivan

