



The BIG Question: What would you find in a Rainforest?

Introduction

Our cross-curricular topic this term is geography focused and looks to explore rainforests. We will start by locating rainforest on a map and finding out what is there. In Literacy we will be using non-fiction books to find out what animals live in rainforests. We will also be developing our Literacy skills by using books about rainforests to write for different purposes. In Geography we will be building upon our Geography skills using maps to locate rainforests in the world and exploring why they are mainly on the equator. Then we will be enhancing our physical and human features knowledge by comparing the Amazon Rainforest to a forest near us. We will be finding out about the climate and year 2 will be comparing its weather to our own. After this we will investigate the people who live there and how they live their lives. We will end our geography lessons looking into deforestation and how it affects people and animals who live there. In Art and Design we will be using a range of media to create animal pictures from the rainforests. We will be exploring aboriginal art recreating our own and designing and creating aboriginal masks and grass skirts. We are going to end our topic raising money for a rainforest charity in our school café.

Books we will share

Non-Fiction books about Rainforests
 The Great Kapok Tree
 One Day on our Blue Planet...In the Rainforest
 Wild Animals of the South
 Where the Forest Meets the Sea
 Can You Guess What I am? In a Rainforest
 The Vanishing Rainforest

Our Community and Beyond

We will be comparing a local forest (Swinley Forest, in Bracknell) to the Amazon Rainforest.

At the end of our topic we will be raising money for a Rainforest charity in our school café. We will be finding out about deforestation and the effects it has on our world.

Some of our Super Skills

Year 1-

Ge2 Explore and discover where different foods come from
 Ge3 Recognise and observe main human and physical features
 Ge4 Recognise different types of weather and climate
 Ge5 Express their own views about features of the environment
 Ge6 Communicate in different ways using simple geographical information and vocabulary
 Ge8 Use globes, maps and plans
 Ar2 Painting Explore a variety of tools and techniques including the use of different brush sizes and types
 Ar3 Printing Make marks in print with a variety of objects, including natural and made objects
 Ar4 Textiles/Collage Investigate using a wide variety of media, including card, fabric, plastic, tissue, magazines, crepe paper etc.

Year 2-

Ge10 Ask and respond to geographical questions about people, places and environments
 Ge11 Investigate, measure and record changes in the weather
 Ge12 Recognise, observe, describe and record physical and human features
 Ge14 Discuss how weather affects our lives
 Ge15 Locate key features on globes, maps and plans
 Ge16 Make simple comparisons between features of different places and say how these features influence life there
 Ar17 Painting Experiment with a variety of tools and techniques, including mixing a range of secondary colours, shades and tones
 Ar18 Printing Investigate and design patterns of increasing complexity and repetition
 Ar19 Textile/Collage Explore texture using a variety of media
 Ar20 3D-Form Experiment with, construct and join recycled, natural and man-made materials more confidently
 Ar23 Observe the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work
 Ar26 Printing Use a variety of techniques e.g. fabric printing, rubbings
 Design patterns of increasing complexity and repetition
 Ar28 Textile/Collage Use a variety of techniques e.g. tie-dyeing, wax or oil resist, mosaic

Content and Vocabulary

- Rainforests are on or close to the equator, on the tropical climate zone
- They are found all around the circumference of the earth.
- They are coastal and inland.
- They are found in Northern Southern America, central Africa and South East Asia.
- Rainforests are on the equator because the sunlight is directly ahead. There is sunlight and low pressure on the equator, water can evaporate. This creates a lot of rain.
- Rainforests need sunlight and water to grow.
- There is a lot of sunshine on the equator because the sun's rays are concentrated in that area.
- There is lots of rain on the equator because it is warm and there is low air pressure. These are ideal conditions for evaporation, which in turn creates lots of rain.
- There are four layers to a rainforest emergent layer, canopy layer, understory, and the forest floor. These layers host several species of tropical animals and tropical plants.
- There are more physical than human features there, people who live there have to use the materials and surroundings around them to help them in their lives.
- Palm oil production is the largest cause of deforestation in Indonesia and other equatorial countries. It forces people from their traditional lands and threatens orangutans with extinction.

Some Key Places



Amazon Rainforest



Aerial Photograph of Amazon



My Magic Moments

For children's comments at the end of the topic