



The BIG Question:

What does it mean to be a Superhero?

Introduction

Our cross-curricular topic this term is geography-focused and looks to use the topic of Superheroes to enthuse and excite the children, as they make the transition to Key Stage 2. We will start by thinking about what we know about superheroes and what it means to be a superhero. We will be inspired by real-life superheroes, and look within to admire the qualities we personally have. We will look at how Christopher Columbus, as a European, accidentally discovered a route from Europe to the Americas, thinking the Americas was in fact Asia. For geography, we will locate the continent of North America and the countries within. We will identify physical and human features of North America, as well as doing a focus study on New York (in comparison with London). We will undertake a variety of activities to bring the topic alive. We will use clips from film, including Spiderman and Superman. We will study the book "The Hodgehog" by Dick King-Smith, which tells of a hedgehog, who becomes a real-life superhero. This book will be used as a book stimulus for discussion about road safety measures and an opportunity to explore local road safety measures. In Science, we will be exploring light and shadows. In art we will be exploring the work of Roy Lichtenstein (American) and the impact he had on the Pop Art movement, as well as Frida Kahlo (Mexican). These artists will inspire our Self-Portraiture work, and we will replicate self-portraits in their style (bed-day dots and shadow boxes). In design and technology we will be looking at the world renowned British architect Norman Foster, and some of the buildings he designed, such as McLaren Technology Centre (Woking), the Gherkin (London) and the Hearst Tower (New York). We will design and make our own skyscraper scene in class with light up circuits. In computing, we will be using Programming tools as well as exploring the use of avatars on line.

Books and film clips we will share

The Hodgehog by Dick King Smith is our main class text.

Varjak Paw by SF Said

El Deafo by Cece Bell

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

Films to support

The Incredibles

Scene from Spiderman when he gets his superpower.

Scene from Superman where he is sent from Krypton.

Our Community and Beyond

When reading the story of the Super-hero hedgehog in The Hodgehog, we will be using the location of school as a basis for learning about aspects of road safety locally, especially paying attention to road safety measures outside the school.

The children studied London in KS1 for their Great Britain topic. London is close to school, and will be offered as a comparison city to New York. in our study of North America.

We will also locate and learn about the design of the McLaren Technology Centre (Woking) when we study Norman Foster.

We will be using Google Earth to assist with these.

Some of our Super Skills

Ge24 Investigate key aspects of human and physical geography

Ge25 Explore places with different climate zones

Ge26 Identify where significant places are located in the UK, Europe and the wider world

Ge31 Use atlases, globes, maps and plans at a range of scales and draw simple maps and plans

Ge32 Use ICT to help in geographical investigations

Ar31 Painting Experiment with different effects and textures e.g. blocking in colour, colour washes, thickened paint etc.

Ar35 Find out about artists, architects and designers

Ar38 Drawing Use different media to achieve variations in line, texture, tone, colour, shape and pattern

Ar42 Painting Mix a variety of colours and know which primary colours make secondary colours

Ar48 Design and create images and artefacts in response to their personal ideas

Dt21 Generate, develop and explain ideas for products to meet a range of needs

Dt24 Evaluate work, adapting and improving where appropriate

Ict27 Use ICT safely and appreciate the need to keep electronic data secure

Content and Vocabulary

North and South America



North America and South America are two of the seven continents. Each continent is made up of different countries.

The largest countries of North America are Canada, U.S.A., Greenland, Mexico.

Capital cities of North America: Ottawa (Canada), Mexico City (Mexico), Washington D.C. (U.S.A.)

Physical Features of North America: (Niagara Falls, Lake Superior, The Rockies, Greenland, Missouri River, Mount Rushmore).

Human Features of North America: (Chichen Itza, The Empire State Building, The Statue of Liberty, The White House, The Golden Gate Bridge and Mount Rushmore).



The USA

The United States is a large country made up of 50 states. It has the largest population of any country in North America, and the third largest population in the world. The USA is considered the richest and most powerful country in the world, at the forefront of world politics and economy.

The most famous city in the USA is arguably New York. Famous landmarks of New York City include the Statue of Liberty, Chrysler Building, Wall Street, Times Square, Broadway, Central Park, Rockefeller Centre. The USA has many National Parks, including Yellowstone. Blizzards, tornadoes, hurricanes and earthquakes are all common in the USA. These natural phenomena have a huge effect on people and landscapes.

Roy Lichtenstein was born in 1923 in America.

He became famous for his colourful pop art paintings and comic book style. Frida Kahlo

was born in 1907 in Mexico. Norman Foster is

an important British architect with international influence. He designed McLaren Technology Centre (Woking) as well as 30 St Mary Axe (The Gherkin—London) and the Hearst Tower (New York).



Some Key Facts/Events

August 1492, Christopher Columbus departed Europe.

October 1492 – Christopher Columbus accidentally discovered a route from Europe to the Americas, thinking the Americas was in fact Asia.

March, 1493—Second Voyage of Christopher Columbus to the Americas (intentional)

This led to European colonization of the Americas.

4 July, 1776 America declares its independence from Britain.

1 March 1781, U.S.A. was formed.

Early Presidents: 1781 John Hanson

1789 George Washington

20 Jan, 2021 Joe Biden becomes President.

My Magic Moments

For children's comments at the end of the topic