



Medium term planner – Raiders of the lost Mayans.

Title and duration: Raiders of the lost Mayans.

Year group: Year 6

Description: The children will be learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation. This will include looking closely at: who ruled, religion, farming and food, religious temples, the number system, star gazing and the calendar. At the end of the unit children will be able to make a comparison between this civilisation and what was occurring in Britain at the same time. The children will gain an understanding of the terms 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.

Hook: Children will participate in a 'Timeline Treasure Hunt' placing key historical events on a timeline. This will give the children a greater understanding of when civilisations flourished in comparison to one another. Children will also make Mayan styled flatbreads as a way of introducing the topic.

Quality Texts:

Non-fiction Mayan research material

ICT – Using Ipads, children will research about the Mayans and learn how to create notes. They will also use Serif Draw Plus to design a logo for a Mayan flatbread.

Literacy – The children will transfer their literacy skills to produce a description of a Mayan God. Children will also write as historians using a variety of historic sources to argue why the Mayan civilisation declined.

Learning value 1:

- Children will collaborate through researching, presenting and sharing aspects of the Mayan culture.

Learning value 2:

- Independent work: Children will form their own opinions about the decline of the Mayan Civilisation through their research.

Gym/Dance and Music – During the topic, children will look at the musical instruments available during the Mayan civilisation and will attempt to make their own musical instrument. There will be a particular focus on rhythm. The children will investigate the use of dance during that period and will apply the skills they learn in the autumn term to devise a 'Sun Dance'.

Application subject: DT – Children will make and design a Mayan flatbread using seasonal vegetables and products. RE – the children learn about 'The Easter Story' and make direct links with the sacrificial elements of Mayan civilisation.

Application subject: Art – Children will investigate their use of oil pastels and will learn how to draw in one point perspective. This will result in children producing a Mayan temple (in perspective) using oil pastels. They will also investigate and produce a Mayan mask made out of clay.

Outcome: The children will produce a homework project on an aspect of the Mayan civilisation and this will be displayed in an exhibition which parents will be invited to come and see. They will also produce a high quality topic book showcasing all of their work from the term.

Potential links to local, national, international communities: There will be a link with Butser Ancient Farm and The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum (which the children visited in Years 3 and 4) There will be a particular focus on the Mayan civilisation and how it has influenced other countries in the world today.

RRR and Values Links: The children will learn about 'The World of Work' and 'RRR and the Law'. This will make an interesting comparison to the laws of human sacrifice within the structure of the Mayan society.

Home study: There will be an individual research project on an aspect of the Mayans. This will be displayed in an exhibition to parents.