

## Year 5 Autumn Term

### The Americas



As language specialists we will be studying *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo. As readers, we will refine our reading strategies with particular focus on expanding and retaining our vocabulary, monitoring our understanding, asking our own questions about what we have read, summarising and predicting based upon the words we have read. We will also discuss the themes of the text and explore the difference between what we are told and what we can infer. As writers we will write two descriptive pieces, a dialogue between characters and a biography. We will also revise what we know so far about word classes, clauses, sentences, adverbials, co-ordination and subordination, apostrophes for possession and contraction and how to spot sentences which are too long and need splitting into several sentences. We will learn about how to link sentences together within a paragraph to help our writing flow.

As geographers we will discuss what the subject of geography is and ask geographical questions. We will have a focus on the terms continent, country, sea, ocean, equator, longitude and latitude. We will get to know our atlases very well! We will study the major physical features of North America and its climate zones. We will then answer our enquiry question 'Which is the most extreme location in North America'.

As historians we will be studying the Mayan civilisation at 900AD. We will be asking our own questions and exploring why this is a civilisation worth studying in school. We will position the Maya on a timeline in relation to other periods in history which the children have studied at school. We will be using non-fiction books, artefacts and a visit from a Mayan archaeologist in order to find out about every day Mayan life.

As scientists we will be studying properties and changes of materials. Examples of the properties we will study are rigidity, viscosity, strength, hardness, transparency and absorbency. We will learn about changes of state: freezing/solidifying, melting, evaporating and condensing. We will explore dissolving. We will then learn about how to separate mixtures through sieving, evaporating or by using magnets.

**The Big Idea:** The Americas theme is a history and geography driven theme with other subjects weaved in where appropriate. We also happen to be studying a piece of American modern fiction. Studying the geography of North America gives us an amazing array of eye-popping extreme environments to study. Studying the Maya offers the children intriguing and beautiful architecture and artefacts.

As mathematicians we will be studying place value, counting and the number system to one million. We will have a focus on securing our times tables and division facts for those children who have not yet secured them as a great deal of the curriculum from year five onwards is based on this understanding. We will then start work on the four operations, starting with addition and then subtraction.

#### Across the curriculum

As artists we will be studying two and three point perspective and famous photographers of North America.

As users of technology we will be studying how online searches are ranked, how different search engines create different search results and how to question the reliability of information we see online. We will look at how some malicious adults or peers can use technology to cause harm. We will also look at what a positive impact technology can have. As computer programmers we will use Scratch to design an analogue clock face.

As design technologists we will be exploring the food of Central America and focusing on maize. We will look at the importance of this crop for the Maya and create a savoury dish.

We will also be having weekly Spanish lessons, studying RE, PSHCE and enjoying PE.