

# Year 4 Learning Web

Our theme is  
**A World of Water**

## English Focus

- To enrich our water-themed learning, we will focus on two texts: *This Morning I Met a Whale* by Michael Morpurgo and *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill. Reading and writing activities based on these books will include a news report, creating a picture book, writing gripping diary entries, as well as drama opportunities based on the perilous Shackleton expedition.
- We will also be using two paintings by George Seurat as a context for writing - *A Sunday on La Grande Jatte* and *Bathers at Asnières*. These works of art will provide inspiration for character and setting descriptions as well as allowing us to revisit speech punctuation for character dialogue, and inspiring some Tanka water poetry.
- We will end our term on a festive note by using our new sentence structures and rich vocabulary to recount the tale of *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs from the perspective of both the boy and the snowman.

## STEM (including Computing and Science) and Health and Wellbeing

In Science, our learning will be focused on changes of state and the water cycle. As part of this, we will be carrying out a number of scientific investigations; making predictions, asking questions, recording results and furthering our lines of enquiry. STEM activities will focus on engineering skills, and will include building effective water transportation and choosing which material to line our very own canals with!

## Numeracy Focus

Key Areas of Learning:

- Number:** Multiplication and division facts up to  $12 \times 12$  (speed of recall)
- Mental multiplication (including doubling) using partitioning.
- Written methods of multiplication (the grid method using partitioned numbers)

e.g.  $253 \times 6$

x	200	50	3	
6	1200	300	18	= 1518

- Measurement:** Perimeter and area
- Geometry:** Grid co-ordinates in the first quadrant
- Problem solving** focused on all the above areas

## Knowledge and Understanding

- In Geography and History, we will be focusing on the exploration of Antarctica. Using globes to locate the North and South Poles, we will be discussing their similarities and differences. We will be looking at the physical geography of Antarctica and discussing why exploration of this area has been notoriously perilous. Looking back at the historical race to the South Pole, we will be inspired by the fascinating stories of those explorers who set off to be the first to reach it. This topic will encompass many exciting learning opportunities, including stories and photographs from someone who has first-hand experience of Antarctica. We will also be looking closer to home with a study of the role played by canals in the industrial growth of Birmingham. We will even get to create our own canal in a challenging STEM activity.
- In RSMSC, we will be learning about Sikhism and, in particular, the importance of Guru Gobind Singh. As part of this learning, we will be performing the Prisoner Release Day story.

## Ways you can help at home...

- Read little and often each day. We will be reading for meaning and understanding. Ask lots of questions about the text and encourage the children to form opinions. Please sign reading records showing your child's reading as we like to positively acknowledge readers in class.
- In Year 4, it is very important that we know all of our times tables up to  $12 \times 12$  and the corresponding division facts. Please could you support children in practising these whenever possible?
- Help your child to tell the time by asking them to read an analogue clock at various intervals throughout the day.
- Encourage the children to complete their homework and hand it in on time.

## Creativity

- In Art, we will be creating water-inspired artwork using a range of media. Monet's *Waterlilies* collection will inspire our own 2D watercolour and 3D artwork. We will also be using wax-resistance artwork to portray the movement of water. We will be using the pointillism technique to further develop our understanding of tone and shade.
- In Computing, our focus will be on using technology in school. We will be practising skills including copying, pasting and editing pictures, and typing.
- In Music, we will be creating soundscapes which portray the conditions experienced by explorers of the Antarctic.