

# Year 4 Learning Web

## Summer 1 2018 The Amazing Amazon

### English Focus

This half term, our focus text will be *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry. A tale of the Amazon rainforest, we will be using this beautifully illustrated text to consider the effects of deforestation. This will help us to produce non-fiction writing which informs others about the consequences of cutting down rainforest trees. In order to develop our speaking and listening skills, we will be debating both sides of the argument for and against deforestation. For our fiction writing, we will be inspired by *The Lorax* by Dr Seuss to create our own tales with a very important environmental message.

### Numeracy Focus

#### Key Areas of Learning:

- **Measurement - converting units** of time, length, volume and mass, e.g. converting 4.5 metres into centimetres, converting 6.2 litres into millilitres.
- **Geometry** - identifying and ordering obtuse, acute and right **angles** in relation to size.
- Finding lines of **symmetry** and completing shapes using lines of symmetry.
- **Quick recall of times tables up to 12 x 12 and related division facts (to be practised at home for weekly testing).**

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

#### Learning challenge: Electricity circuits on conductors

Our Science focus will be electricity. As part of this, we will be learning about how electricity can make circuits work and can be controlled to perform useful functions. We will also be exploring electricity by getting hands-on and creating our own electrical circuits which include a range of components.

### Creativity

- In **Art**, we will be experimenting with leaf stencilling and printing inspired by William Morris and the Amazon rainforest. To give our prints impact, we will be using a range of tints and shades.
- In **Photography**, we will be improving upon the Arnold Newman-inspired environmental portraits we started taking last term by thinking about the importance of composition.
- In **Music**, we will be experimenting with how we can use water to create our own musical compositions. We will then be thinking about creative ways in which we can write down this music using symbols and pictures.
- In **Cooking**, we will be designing and making our own rainforest cookies using ingredients that grow in the rainforest.
- In **Spanish**, we will be continuing to add more phrases to our growing Spanish vocabulary. This will include saying where we live, asking and giving directions, and naming places around school.

### Knowledge and Understanding

- In **RE**, our focus will continue to be Christian worship and prayer. This will include looking at the Bible in more detail and understanding its significance to the Christian faith.
- In **Geography**, we will be looking at the human and physical geography of the Amazon. We will be exploring the different layers of a rainforest and the animals that live there. We will also be thinking about the people that live in this area and how they are affected by their local environment, e.g. seasonal floods for those living by tributaries of the Amazon River. A large part of our Geography will be considering deforestation and its local and global effects.
- Our **PE** focus this term will be **cricket**. PE will be on a Friday afternoon, so please ensure children have their full kit in for this lesson.

### 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 x 12 and the corresponding division facts. Please could you support children in practising these whenever possible in order to help them move up the 99 Club.
- **Help your child to tell the time by asking them to read an analogue clock at various intervals throughout the day.**
- Encourage your child to complete their homework and hand it in on time.