

Summer Term 2026 Year 5 and 6

Connected Curriculum Theme: Environmental Sustainable Development

Attitudes: Developing a concern for the environment and commitment to sustainable development . Understand people’s dependencies on the environment. Develop a basic understanding of climate change (causes and effects)

Topic: Why is the rainforest biome so valuable and how is it being damaged? What made the Mayan civilization unique and what was the impact of European’s arriving?

Our Big Question: Should exploration cost the earth?

Brave Changemaker Outcome: Rewilding project



Some Facts (Knowledge & Understanding)

As **Geographers** children will focus on studying the Amazon rainforest – considering the unique features of a rainforest biome. The focus will then be on the value of the rainforest environment and the damage that is being done to it by humankind carrying out unsustainable development. They will look at what is being done to protect these environments and to make developments more sustainable.

As **historians**, children will learn about the native civilizations that already existed in South/Central America, focussing on the Mayans. They will learn how this civilization thrived in a very different environment and how it ultimately collapsed due to European interference (looking at the role of the conquistadors and Hernan Cortes).

Brave Changemaker Skills

Empathy - Children will adapt behaviour to take into account feelings of others and discern how people are feeling through their words, body language, gestures and tone. They should recognise how different backgrounds, beliefs and personalities affect behaviour and worldviews.

Making decisions - Children will identify and plan appropriate action(s) and opportunities to make their own voice heard and challenge viewpoints, which perpetuate inequality and injustice.

Sticky Knowledge

Geography

- Tropical rainforests are located between 10° North and 10° South, with over 2000mm rain per year and average temperatures of 28°C.
- The Amazon rainforest covers around 5.5million square kilometres of South America and is mainly in Brazil (with significant sections in Peru and Columbia).
- Rainforests contain natural resources such as wood, food, precious metals, plants that provide medicines and hydroelectric power.
- Rainforest is cleared for many reasons, including logging, livestock grazing, mineral extraction, palm oil production and housing.
- Sustainable management can be achieved through controlling development and promoting activities such as eco-tourism.

History

- The Mayan civilization was located in central America between around 250AD and 1500AD.
- Mayans created the most developed alphabet in Mesoamerica and also developed chocolate and rubber.
- The arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the 1500’s led to the end of the Mayan civilization.
- The Mayans had a range of religious beliefs and ceremonies, including the concept of human sacrifice being an honour.

Key Vocabulary

Deforestation	Civilization
Natural resources	Sacrifice
Biodiversity	Colonisation
Sustainable development	Latitude
Longitude	

Subject	Term 5 and 6 Learning
English	We will further develop our range of different types of writing and refine the Year 6 writing skills ready for secondary school.
Maths	We will first revise the maths curriculum in preparation for the SATs exams. After that, we will work on developing our logical thinking skills and ability to problem solve.
Science	Human body, health and exercise
R.E. (Religious Education)	Creation and Science – Conflicting or Complimentary? Green Religion? How and why should religious communities do more to care for the Earth?
Computing	Programming The impact of technology
PE (Physical Education)	Gym with the Bristol Sport coaches Tri-golf with Mr Leeming
History	What made the Mayan civilization unique and what was the impact of Europeans arriving?
Geography	Why is the rainforest biome so valuable and how is it being damaged?
Art / Design and Technology	Printing: Lino Printing. Create a print of a rainforest image
PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)	Relationships Changing Me
Music	Preparing for the Year 5/6 productions
French	Revising key vocabulary and phrases ready for secondary school.