

### Literacy

This half term, the children will be reading 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. In the first few chapters of the story, Maia, a young orphan, is sent to live with distant relatives in Brazil. The children will begin this topic by writing a letter from the perspective of Maia, formally introducing herself to the relatives who have kindly offered her a home. They will focus on their use of formal language and the subjunctive mood to express a desire, wish or hypothetical situation. The children will further analyse the structure and organisation of a letter by identifying when to use yours sincerely or yours faithfully in the correct context.

Maia's journey provides inspiration for a range of writing opportunities. In particular, the children will develop their setting descriptions, focusing on building a sense of mood and atmosphere through their language choices. The children will spend time contrasting the confined, Lysol-covered house that Maia finds herself in with the vibrant and enchanting rainforest which she longs to explore.

To coincide with their geographical research into the Amazon, the children will write a persuasive argument outlining the harmful impact of deforestation. They will focus on their use of imperative verbs and powerful language choices to persuade their reader.

### Geography

The children will use maps and atlases to locate the Amazon rainforest, focusing on its climate and the countries that it spans. As part of the story, Maia travels from London to Manaus via Lisbon. Using aerial maps as well as graphs and data, they will draw comparisons between these three cities, focusing on both their human and physical geography.

Rainforests are at constant threat of deforestation. The children will explore the causes of deforestation and the impact this has upon various species, indigenous groups and the environment.

The Amazon biome comprises of both the rainforest but also the largest river in the world – the Amazon, otherwise known as the 'River Sea.' The children will explore the different components of a river, creating their own annotated 3D models of a river to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

### Design Technology

In their focus text, the children read about Maia's journey to the exotic Amazon River Town of Manaus to live with her distant cousins. They will be challenged to design and make a hydraulic bridge that could be built to connect Manaus to the other side of the river.

### Mathematics

In maths this half term, the children will learn to:

- Multiply fractions by integers and fractions
- Divide a fraction by an integer
- Solve mixed questions with fractions
- Find a fraction of an amount and use this to find a whole
- Convert metric and imperial measures
- Learn about miles and kilometres.

### Religious Education

**Christmas:** This unit looks in detail at the birth of Jesus, expressed as 'The Word' in St John's Gospel. The children will explore the meaning of 'Incarnation.'

**Revelation:** This theme looks at the personal relationship St Paul enjoyed with God. The children will look at Matthew 28, to consider what is meant by 'Apostolic Tradition'. They will consider the work of the ten Gurus in the Sikh religion and what their key teachings are.



# The Amazing Amazon

### Enrichment

We will host our very own Brazilian-themed evening. This will comprise of an artwork gallery, Brazilian music and food as well as a raffle.

### Physical Education

**Gymnastics:** The children will learn to use a combination of wall-bars and equipment, displaying competent levels of extension, tension and control. Inspired by the animals of the Amazon, they will jump and land from equipment using the five key gymnastic jumps. The children will learn to demonstrate good support in assisted flight, and will apply knowledge of assisted flight and strong support into their gymnastic performances. They will develop the quality of their vaulting through good extension, tension and control and execute good technique using the springboard in flight. Finally, they will create a compositional sequence using different pieces of equipment, ensuring the quality of each movement.

### PSHE/RHE

In RHE this half-term, the children will focus on their **emotional well-being**. They will learn that, when worried, openness with trusted parents, carers and teachers can help with healthy emotional well-being. The children will consider the impact that harmful videos and images can have on young minds as well as ways to combat or deal with viewing harmful content. After this, the children will focus on **life cycles**. They will learn how a baby grows and develops in its mother's womb, and that pregnancy and childbirth are God's way of giving the gift of life.

### Science

This half term, the children will be learning about living things and their habitats. They will start the topic by learning about Carl Linnaeus, a famous botanist and 'father of taxonomy', who was responsible for classifying plants and animals based on seven levels of classification. The children will learn about the importance of classifying organisms depending on their kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species. As part of this, they will learn why micro-organism classifications are often more complex.

The children will then create their own classification diagrams using sweets. They will consider what common observable characteristics can be found between different sets of sweets before classifying these based on their similarities and differences.

Following this, the children will create their own classification systems for plants as well as animals. Finally, they will write their own scientific descriptions to help others recognise specific plants, animals and fungi.

### Computing

**Creating Media - 3D Modelling:** The children will be introduced to the concept of using a computer to produce 3D models. Initially, they will combine 3D objects to make a digital image of Maia's house in the Amazon. The children will progress to making accurate 3D models of physical objects, which include using 3D objects as placeholders. Finally, the children will go on to plan, develop, and evaluate their own 3D model of an item in Maia's bedroom.

### Art and Design

This half term, the children will research the life and works of Henri Rousseau, a primitive artist. They will learn that Rousseau's interest in the rainforest and the Paris botanical gardens influenced his art. The children will consider the colour schemes that Rousseau used by analysing the colour wheel. They will then study his famous painting, 'Surprised,' before emulating his style to create their own depictions of the Amazing Amazon!

### Music

The children will learn to sing the Brazilian song 'Mas Que Nada.' They will compose their own music, inspired by the sounds of the rainforest, using #GoCompose resources to explore different compositional techniques. Maia's story begins in London and is set in the early 1900s. Linked to this, the children will listen to music from 'My Fair Lady.' They will identify the French Horn and other orchestral instruments through listening exercises.