

Y6 Wonderful Rainforest

This final term was incredibly busy with several projects running concurrently. Our initial focus was the Rainforest but we also took part in the Young enterprise competition. In the initial project we found out all about life in The Rainforest now and in the past. We looked at the geography of the region and adaptation in plants and animals. We also looked at the ancient Mayan civilisation. We studied the location and at the geography of South America and found out about the position and significance of latitude, longitude on climate. On our maps we located key features such as: the Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. We learnt about the key aspects of physical geography, including: biomes and vegetation belts and discussed the destruction of the Rainforest due to modern commercial demands. We also went deeper into the Rainforest's history and learnt about the ancient Mayan civilisation including their daily life, their building and the ancient game of Pok a tok. We looked at the ancient traditions and beliefs and made Mayan masks. We also based some of our writing on the beautifully illustrated 'Wonder Garden' and found out about adaptation of plants and animals in the different layers of the Rainforest including the canopy. Our literacy work was inspired by the descriptive style of writing in the Wonder Garden and we emulated this in our own descriptive work. Our Science topic linked the oxygen provided by the Rainforest to our own circulatory system and the importance of our symbiotic relationship with the trees of the rainforest which provide the Earth with 20% of its oxygen supply. As a class we also took part in the Young Enterprise Fiver competition and ran our own companies, making a final profit of over £300 which we donated to various charities. We also had an additional mini-topic on WW1 and joined in celebrations commemorating the fact that it is 100 years since end of WW1. This led to our performance of songs from the 1940s in Lincoln.

Creativity	Independence	Aspiration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our topic gave us many opportunities to take a journey back in time to Mayan civilisation of South America. • We learnt about how their beliefs included human sacrifice and how their use of masks was vital. We made masks in the Mayan style with papier mache and paint. • We used our imagination plus historical facts to complete our writing tasks and emulated the writing style of the 'Wonder Garden'. • We looked at adaptations in plants and animals and made flowers out of clay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched the Rainforest and palm oil. • Researched chocolate production, the logging industry and the impact of cattle farming by companies such as MacDonald's. • Researched life cycles and adaptations in plants and animals. • Group work for the different layers of the Rainforest. • Presented our information to the class. • We ran our own companies and created our own products to sell. We worked in groups and planned our strategies. We thought about our costs and what we should charge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write descriptively about the beautiful Rainforest. • To link our knowledge to the design of masks. • To know about the threats to the rainforest and the impact of deforestation on the oxygen supply in the world. • To be aware of our human wider impact on the Earth. • To know about ancient religions. • To know about Buddhism. • To create our own company. To create our own products. Be independent in our own companies. Make a profit.

- We had a go at drawing and colouring in the style of the beautifully illustrated 'Wonder Garden'.
- We produced portraits in pencil then used our Maths skills to improve the proportions in our portraits.
- We created our own companies and took part in the Young enterprise competition. This meant that some groups planned, designed and made their own products.

in order to make a profit. We came up with our own company names, designed our own logos, advertised our products and made videos to promote our company and our products. These included selling trolley tokens, seeds, key rings, slime pompoms, coasters and even a car wash company.

Spark :

Show the children a fiver and launch the Young Enterprise competition.
Let the children choose their groups and come up with their own ideas for products.

Tell the children they will be going to a party.
Explain the links to WW1 and launch mini topic.

Learning Celebrations:

- Young Enterprise sale.
- Peace party in the park- Royal British Legion
- Performance in Lincoln

Role Playing/Life Skills/Real /

Young enterprise- this provided a wealth of opportunities and experiences. It included various roles in running a company. Experience was gained in handling and managing real money. Skills included setting a budget, predicting sales, organising marketing and promotion, advertising including designing logos, making promotional videos.

The project culminated with every single group making a profit. In total more than £300 was raised. This money was donated to charities chosen and voted for democratically by the children.

Community Cohesion:

Young Enterprise- we opened our stalls to the school community and invited everybody to come and buy something.

We donated £100 to Oxfam, £100 to the Willow Foundation and £100 to Cancer Research. We wrote letters to these organisations to explain how we had raised our funds.

We took part in the 'Peace Party in the Park', a commemoration of the end of WW1 in collaboration with Wilds Lodge School and the Royal British Legion.

We went to Lincoln to sing our songs from the war years as part of the Lincoln Festival.

Leavers' party

Out of Classroom Opportunities

Trip to Lincoln for the Schools Festival
The Peace Party in the Park
Visit to the theatre – a day in the life of a dancer.

Home Learning Activity

Finding out about the Rainforest. WW1 and ideas for the Young Enterprise project.
Helping children to make purchases with their real fivers.

Computing and E-safety

When carrying out research into the Rainforest, pupils used the internet to search for websites effectively. There was a strong focus throughout on the need to stay safe online and how to deal with any situations which gave cause for concern. We had PSHE sessions on cyber-bullying and staying safe on the internet.

British Values:

We learnt more about WW1 and WW11 and read extracts from the Flossie Albright diaries. We took part in the Peace Part in the Park with the Royal British Legion ad Wild wood School to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1. We leant and sang songs from the war years such as 'Roll out the Barrel' and sang them in the Lincoln Children's Festival.

Links to discrete subjects:

History- The Mayan civilisation, WW1 and WW11

Geography- The Rainforest, climate, location, vegetation.

Science- adaptation in plants and animals, evolution, the circulatory system in humans.

Literacy- emulating an author using the Flossie Albright diaries and the Wonder Garden.

Maths- using maths and fractions to measure and draw accurate faces.

Art-clay sculpture, sketching, painting, designing, making masks.

RE- ancient Mayan beliefs and Buddhism.

Music- listening to plainchant and Buddhist music.

Dance- making up dances for the Lincoln Festival performance

Steps to success

1. The Peace part was our first focus. We learnt that this year is 100 years since the end of WW1 and the children were very excited to be invited to take part in a party with other schools in Stamford. We planned our table decorations and got in to the mood of the era by learning songs such as Run Rabbit Run. We made up dance moves for the songs led by the children themselves.
2. We then used the Flossie Albright diary extracts to recap our work on WWII. We looked at the techniques used by the writer and the vocabulary of the era in particular in order to emulate this in our own diary entries.
3. We then moved on to the Young Enterprise Fiver competition and the children were excited to know that they had real money to spend. This was a four week project running alongside our other classwork.
4. The Rainforest brought in many aspects of learning. We began with the geography and climate, looked at the importance of trees for oxygen. This led to our science work on breathing and the circulatory system.
5. We moved on to plants and animals and looked at adaptations for our science writing. Children had some degree of choice to peruse their own area of interest in plants and animals in the Rainforest and looked at evolution and adaptation.
6. Next we used the beautifully illustrated 'Wonder Garden' to marvel at our beautiful world. This led to our RE topic on God's Wonderful World and then on to a study of Buddhism. We also emulated the author's style to produce highly descriptive work.

7. We also found out about the ancient Mayan civilisation and this gave us scope for some mask making as well as information texts and non-chronological reports.

How was the project be evaluated?

The Young Enterprise was highly successful as each group made a profit and we donated £300 to charities selected by the children. They all found the project worthwhile and it gave some children the chance to work in a very new and different way. They rose to the challenge and for some it was an opportunity to see a different side to them. They managed to excel in different ways such as taking on responsibility and organising others. Without exception they said that they would recommend the project to others and they enjoyed being able to spend and make real money.

The descriptive work based on the 'Wonder Garden' was very positive with higher level vocabulary and many children emulated the author's style successfully. The Flossie Albright diaries gave children the opportunity to demonstrate control of their writing at greater depth by including contrasting styles within one piece of writing.

The Lincoln festival was a resounding success and the organisers said we were 'brilliant'. We had an excellent audience and members of the public also joined in with the singing and dancing. The children enjoyed performing so much that they chose their favourite song 'Roll out the Barrel' to perform again at the end of year Leavers ' party.