

Year 4, Spring Term 2024

Home Learning Tasks

Over the Spring term, our topic will be exploring rivers. We will learn about the main features of a river and investigate why rivers are so important. We will locate the main rivers within each continent on a world map, honing our map skills and discover the mountain ranges where they begin and find out which sea/ocean they flow into. In particular, we will examine our very own River Don, exploring how it is used, it's role in local economic history and comparing the course of this local river to that of the Amazon River in South America. We will look to identify the biome (the climate, flora, fauna and ecosystems) of the Amazon and see how this compares to that of the River Don.

We will explore the global issue of protecting the homeland of indigenous groups and, in particular, the challenges facing the Amazonian tribes, examining what our responsibilities are towards different communities and groups and asking if it's right to take their land or acceptable to change their way of life.

In Science, we will be investigating electricity: how we use it, how electrical circuits work and how some materials, insulators, don't allow electricity to flow easily.

In addition, we will be creating river scenes using Pointillism in art, trying to replicate techniques pioneered by artists such as, George Serat and Paul Signac and developing our sketching techniques to produce river/water designs.

Home Learning Task Options: Geography

- Create a piece of art depicting the movement of water in a river's meandering journey.
- To research a world river of your choice. Rivers only hold a small amount of the Earth's water, but they have always been vital to human life all over the world. Find out key facts for your chosen river, its source, the countries it flows through, where the mouth of the river is located and research why this river is important. You can present your findings however you choose, maybe: a poster, power point presentation, information leaflet or even a labelled model. It would be great to see some fun facts to enhance your work.
- Maths - I would love to see some visual diagrams of data that can be collected on rivers. You might want to look at a selection of the world's largest rivers or maybe the rivers that run through the major cities of

Europe, for example. Maybe, you could compare lengths of rivers from source to mouth, volume of water, or width at narrowest and widest points and consider how best to present your data i.e. a bar or pie chart.

- Create a board game themed around the Amazon River and the challenges an epic explorer might face when navigating this great body of water i.e. the terrifying creatures, geographical features or environmental issues that could add interest and jeopardy to your game.
- Create a sketch of a river creature from the Amazon River, think about how you can use sketching techniques to add texture and bring your creature to life.

Science

- Take a normal day on a weekend and consider just how many electrical items your family use in a day. Make a log of all the items, from light switches to hairdryers, from televisions to vacuum cleaners.... can you categorise the things that your family i.e. things to help with chores, entertainment, getting ready etc. How do these items help your family? Out of all the items that you use, which items would be hardest to live without for a day? Pick your top three. Interview your family, would their top three items be the same or different to yours? Can you explain why?
- Today, the world is looking for new, alternative, sustainable ways to generate electricity, using natural resources, as an alternative to fossil fuels. Investigate the eco-friendly ways that are now widely available to create electricity. Give reasons for and against these sustainable methods of creating electricity.
- Scientist fact file - research a scientist who is known for their work on, or with, electricity. You should give details of what they were trying to do, when they lived, what they are famous/infamous for and how we have benefitted from their work. You could include photographs of them and/or their work, a timeline of where they fit historically and details about how long it took their research took and how successful you think they were. Possible scientific figures: Joseph Henry, Farada, Tesla, Edison

These learning tasks are planned to cover the whole terms topic, which lasts until Easter. Please choose at least two of them to complete over the term. As well as this learning, children will sometimes be provided with other key learning tasks, which they will be expected to complete and relate to the maths or literacy lessons taking place in class.

We'd love to see your home learning and share your discoveries, so please, either bring it into class, or alternatively you can email me at year4@stpeter.doncaster.sch.uk

Thank you!

Mrs Peavoy