



Learning Exploration: Mexico: The Yucatan Experience

The overall aim behind this exploration is to foster a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world we live in at a level wider than our local community and country. Comparing the area that we live in – The South West Peninsula – to a contrasting area in the world – The Yucatan, Mexico – will enable children to deepen their understanding of and empathy towards people who share our global community. This will help children on their journey to becoming global citizens who respect the protected characteristics of all members of our global population; it will also prepare them for their future (wherever they may end up in the world). Understanding the physical geography of a contrasting area of the world as well as developing an understanding of the cultural differences which may exist will support children to build compassion for others.

Hook into learning:

Year 6 will be challenged to plan a trip to Mexico. They will be given a budget in a group and will need to plan a trip which allows a tourist to explore Mexico as fully as possible. As a group, they will be challenged to create a 'mood board' to showcase their trip which they will share with the year group, focusing on how they present this to their audience.

Journey through the exploration

They will begin their journey by investigating the key question **what are the key human geographical features of The Yucatan peninsula?** On their journey, they will discover famous tourist landmarks and decide upon why this area is so popular with tourists, comparing this to our local area. Along their way, they will also discover the physical features of this environment by asking the key question **what are the similarities and differences between The Yucatan Peninsula and our South West Peninsula?** This will entail discovering the secrets of the largest rainforest in Mexico, exploring the famous coastline, as well as journeying into central Mexico to investigate major volcanoes such as Popocatepetl – the largest volcano in Mexico – and Ajusco. Our art lessons will focus upon **textiles** in which the children will create a small place mat using the **Zapotec weaving** tradition. At the heart of this exploration, global learning will help to develop a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world. Global learning will be focused upon by developing empathy towards others locally and globally – particularly understanding the main impacts of prejudice and discrimination faced by people living in Mexico.



Parent/Carer Curriculum Information

Year 6

Linked subjects

Through this exploration, learning will be linked where appropriate, including in the following subjects:

- Geography
- History
- Art – Textiles
- Global Learning
- Music

The following subjects will also be taught discretely during this half term:

- Science
- R.E.
- PSHE
- Computing
- P.E.
- Primary Languages – French

Maths

Children will explore:

- Revision of previous maths learning – 4 weeks
- Costing and budgeting for a trip to The Yucatan, Mexico.



Writing

Children will explore the following genres of writing:

Poetry:

- *Lost Words* by Robert McFarlane
- Purpose: to entertain
- Pupils will use the model text to write their own poem about something from the natural world

Fiction:

- *The Blackberry Blue and other Fairy Tales* by Jamila Gavin
- Purpose: to entertain and enthrall
- Pupils will write their own story using elements of traditional fairy tales

Opportunities for writing across the curriculum:

- The first part of this half term will focus upon revision for SATs – including a key focus upon reading and grammar. Our grammar revision will focus on writing descriptive sentences about locations in Mexico with a specific grammatical focus.



Opportunities to build cultural capital

Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

At NCSPA, we aim to build cultural capital through experiences such as trips, visitors, music and providing local links.

For Year 6, options this term may include:

- A trip to GoldCoast Oceanfest to take part in the beach activities

Opportunities for shared outcomes

Children will have the opportunity to produce or take part in one or more of the following:

- Mood Board to showcase their 'Mexico Trip' as part of their 'hook into learning'.
- A collaborative 'Zapotec Weave'.
- A collaborative brochure.



Opportunities to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Through our global learning, prejudice and discrimination which may be faced by people living in Mexico will be investigated, challenging cultural stereotypes through this learning.

Opportunities for developing empathy towards our diverse global community will be explored.



Further curriculum information

If you would like any further information regarding the curriculum, please:

- Speak to Mrs Hemmings or Mrs Vine.
- See your child's class information on Seesaw.
- Contact Mrs Louisa Buttel (Curriculum Leader), through the school office.
- Visit the Curriculum pages on our website.

