



Learning Exploration: Mysteries of the Mayans

Following our previous exploration which focused on the Geography of Mexico (in particular the Yucatan), this exploration aims to develop children's historical understanding of the area as a contrasting study to British historical periods studied this year. This will enable children to deepen their chronological understanding as well as to understand the significance of cultural beliefs and practices. As year six are developing as independent global citizens, studying a culture in this way will help children to respect and empathise with others who share our global community. Throughout this exploration, children will be encouraged to question the actions of the Spanish conquistadors which will help to develop their understanding of human rights in society and enable them to be confident to stand up or speak out against prejudice in the future. Through studying this period in history, children will develop understanding of the diversity of societies and the relationships between different groups.

Hook into learning:

Year 6 will become Spanish Conquistadors, imagining they have journeyed overseas to new lands. Through drama, they will explore who the Mayans were and begin to build an understanding of chronology within this period of history.

Journey through the exploration

The Mysteries of the Mayans will begin with Year 6 becoming Spanish conquistadors, imagining they have journeyed overseas to new lands. The question, that will be explored through drama, will be **who were the Mayans and when in history did they exist?** Year Sixes will also explore their first impressions of the Mayan culture through the eyes of conquistadors. Following this, Year six will develop an understanding of the Mayan culture and their beliefs, giving opinions on the key question: **should the Spanish Conquistadors have invaded Mayan lands?** Throughout this exploration, year 6 will develop an understanding of the changes that took place during this historical period. During this exploration, children will have the opportunity to devise their own enquiry questions to explore the Mayans. Finally, children will explore the key question **how are the Maya preserving and re-inventing their culture?**



Parent/Carer Curriculum Information

Year 6

Linked subjects

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

- History
- Geography
- Global Learning
- Science

Pupils will also learn the following subjects discretely:

- DT
- Computing
- Music
- French
- PSHE



Writing

Children will explore the following genres of writing:

- Narrative based on the film 'Alma'
- Hybrid text based on the book 'The Wonder Garden' by Jenny Broom

Opportunities for writing across the curriculum, linked to current or previous learning:

- Diary entries written from the point of view of Spanish Conquistadors.
- Non-chronological reports about the Mayans.

Maths

Linked to their Learning Exploration, children will be:

- Exploring the Mayan number system.
- Exploring the Mayan calendar.



Parent/Carer Curriculum Information

Year 6

Opportunities for shared outcomes

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

- Y6 Production
- Y6 Leavers Assembly



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:

- Trip to Oceanfest – Goldcoast.
- Drama hook for learning – children will become 'Spanish Conquistadors'.



Opportunities to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Through the study of the Mayan culture, children will expand their understanding of different cultural practices and beliefs, helping to develop empathy and respect as well as challenging prejudice and stereotypes.

While investigating how Spanish conquistadors invaded Mayan land, children will be challenged to consider whether this is acceptable considering how this would be received today.

Opportunities to develop understanding of the Maya culture today and how the culture is being preserved will be explored.

Further curriculum information

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

- Speak to Mrs Vine or Mrs Hemmings.
- 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.



Summer Term 2, 2024