



Year 2 Summer Term: Journeys Into The Unknown

As Language Specialists we will be reading stories about the world's greatest travellers and explorers - both fact and fiction! From Jonathan Swift's classic 18th century story *Gulliver's Travels* to reading extracts from Neil Armstrong's biography, we will consider how only the brave dare embark on these epic journeys of discovery. We will be comparing the tales of Disney's *Finding Nemo* to that of Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. We will also be enjoying other texts about exploration and bravery, including *Into the Forest* by Anthony Browne, *The Park in the Dark* by Martin Waddell, *The Shark in the Dark* by Peter Bentley, *The Whale's Song* by Dyan Sheldon, *The Lonely Sea Dragon* by Helen Dunmore and *Courage* by Bernard Waber. Reading and appreciating Maya Angelou's poem *Life Doesn't Frighten Me* and preparing interview questions for sailing legend Ellen Macarthur will round-off this fascinating topic of *Journeys into the Unknown*.

As Geographers we will be looking closely at the seas, oceans and continents that make our world. How deep is the ocean? What is the *Pacific Rim*? Where did all the Earth's water come from? What is the difference between countries and continents? We will be using globes, maps and virtual tours of the planet to answer these fascinating questions.

As Historians we will be researching those men and women who have braved the unknown and reached epic heights of human achievement. Historical figures such as Neil Armstrong, Edmund Hillary, Ellen Macarthur and Joseph Kittinger will come under the spotlight.

As Scientists we will be investigating the needs of animals and plants. We will also be exploring the major differences between land life and sea life, considering the possibilities that some sea animals once lived on land.
As Design Technologists we will be designing and making totem poles inspired by the native Indian tribes of North America, as seen in the classic Disney film *Pocahontas*.

The Big Idea: What is bravery? What does it look like? How does it feel? In this incredible topic we will examine the great explorers and pioneers of our time and attempt to understand what motivates them to do the things that they do. As historians we will study the inspirational people who decided to laugh in the face of fear. As writers and readers we will consider how the great fictional explorers compare to the great factual ones. From Neil Armstrong to Ellen Macarthur, we will explore the concept of courage and the reasons why the human race has continuously strived to reach into the unknown and achieve the unbelievable.

As Mathematicians we will be investigating depth, distance, size and capacity. We will relate the distances and capacities of our everyday lives to the massive distances and capacities of the Earth and Space. How far away is the Moon? How high is the sky? How much water do the Earth's oceans contain? How much salt is in the sea? We will use all of our mathematical endeavour to try and understand these epic questions and answers! Consolidating our multiplication and division skills, as well as mastering our 2, 5 and 10 times-tables will also be essential.

Across the curriculum

As Athletes we will be training hard and conditioning our bodies for the physical challenges of the King Athelstan sports day.

As Theologians we will be considering how Muhammed, Moses and Jesus pioneered their faiths with courage and conviction. We will also be investigating special people and special places.

As members of our community we will be discussing the concept of 'bravery' and exploring what bravery looks like, how it feels and whether bravery can actually be a bad thing.

As Musicians we will be listening to the *Brave* movie soundtrack composed by Patrick Doyle and performed by the London Symphony Orchestra. We will compose music inspired by the explorers and pioneers who have risked their lives for the greater good.

As Artists we will be creating *Moon silhouette art* inspired by the work of Julie Fain. We will also be creating dramatic underwater pictures using collage and mixed media.

As Computer Programmers we will create a database of human achievements and use technology to create, organise and store digital content.

Knowledge of the World

We will watch footage of the 1969 Moon landings and ask ourselves: how does this achievement rank against all of the other achievements in human history?

The Arts and Sports

How do astronauts keep themselves fit in Space?
What do people who have lived on the *International Space Station* do in their spare time?

Enquiry

Did dolphins used to walk on land?
Were they once land dwellers? We will investigate this fascinating possibility.

Ambition and Possibilities

Will humans one day be able to colonise the Moon or the ocean bed? We will gather opinions from experts and explorers in order to make up our own minds.