



Year 4 Summer Term: Tales of the Bearly Believable



As Language Specialists we will study the stories that push the very boundaries of our imagination. From Michael Bond's *Paddington Bear* to Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park* and Ray Bradbury's *Sound of Thunder*, we will endeavour to understand the very essence of 'extreme' fiction and consider why these fantastical tales are so cherished and popular. We will delve into the fantasy worlds of JRR Tolkien (*The Hobbit*) and JK Rowling (*Harry Potter*) and consider whether these tales have important messages about how we live our lives today. Shakespeare's magical comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will allow us to experience theatrical fantasy, and watching footage of Merian C. Cooper's classic monster movie *King Kong* will allow us to marvel at how empathy can be created even in the most fanciful of stories. In stark contrast, we will be immersing ourselves in other incredible stories grounded in reality: from David Attenborough's autobiography *Life Stories* to the awe inspiring nature poetry of *Ted Hughes*, we will endeavour to ask ourselves: is *reality* just as wondrous as *fantasy*?

As Geographers we will investigate the 300 million year old super-continent *Pangea* and consider how tectonic plates and the *Mid-Atlantic Ridge* have shaped our world today. We will also be exploring England's *Jurassic Coast*, examining the fossil evidence that reveals that terrible monsters from the depths of our worst nightmares really did roam the Earth!

As Historians we will be investigating the lives of renowned conservationist Diane Fosey, *The Lost World* author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and comparing the work of famous brothers David Attenborough and Richard Attenborough. We will also be examining the unbelievable civilisation known as the Aztecs - considering how some of their cultural practices were even more incredible than any fantasy story!

As Scientists we will be exploring and classifying living things and creating food chains for exotic creatures and fictional beasts. We will investigate how animals rely on their habitats and we'll research some of the most unbelievable and mind-boggling creatures the planet's ever seen! We will also be learning about sound.
As Design Technologists we will be designing and making a fantastical fictional beast and creating a habitat for it to thrive in.

The Big Idea: From talking bears to 60 foot 'lizards', *Tales of the Bearly Believable* invites you to consider the incredible realities and epic fantasies of our fascinating world. Can dinosaurs be brought back to life? Why did Aztecs sacrifice so many people? Why do writers create stories about talking animals? As book and film critics we will consider how authors and film makers 'suspend our disbelief' and make us believe the 'impossible'. As historians we will examine how the 'impossible' is merely just part of nature's grand plan. Join us as we attempt to make sense of how Earth's amazing history is even more incredible than our most fanciful stories!

As Mathematicians we will be investigating other counting systems that are different to our own Base-10 counting model. From the Base-20 mathematics of the Aztecs to the counting systems utilised by the Romans, we will be exploring how the 'language' of mathematics varies through time and culture. Learning our times tables will also be essential this term.

Across the curriculum

As Athletes we will be developing our athletics skills in preparation for sports day. We will also be playing a variation of the Harry Potter sport *Quidditch*.
As Theologians we will be studying variations of the Christian faith and relating Christianity to the cultures of South America. We will also be comparing Christian practices to those of Islam.
As members of our community we will be reflecting on our rights and responsibilities as citizens and exploring 'what makes a good neighbour'. We will relate this to some controversial Aztec cultural practices, whereby we will probably establish that the Aztecs were the worst neighbours in human history.
As Musicians we will be appreciating the nature inspired classical music of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, as well as continuing to develop our string instrument skills.
As speakers of French we will be creating and describing our own extraordinary animals.
As Artists we will be inspired by the water colours and sketches of *Paddington* illustrator Peggy Fortnum, as well as trying to pay homage to some of the unbelievable tessellating optical illusions created by MC Escher and Tang Yau Hoong.
As Computer Programmers we will be using Microsoft Publisher to create our own travel brochures - persuading eager holiday makers to explore some of South America's most fascinating locations and cultures. We will also be combining computer generated images to water colour illustrations to recreate scenes from the 1970s *Paddington* TV series.

Knowledge of the World

Is the story of the *Lost City of Atlantis* a fantasy or a reality? Is it historical fact or literary fiction? We will delve into the annals of ancient history to establish the truth about this legendary story.

The Arts and Sports

Can we create and play our own fantastical sports and games based on JK Rowling's *Quidditch and the Triwizard* tournament?

Enquiry

Who discovered dinosaurs?
Why is there no household name associated with this epic discovery?
What were the *Bone Wars*?

Ambition and Possibilities

Can we create our own *stop-motion* animated monster movies?
Can we scare a captive audience with tense action and impending peril?
Is it possible to rival the cinematic masterpiece that is *King Kong*?