

# Wild at Heart

## Year 3 Spring Term



**As Language Specialists we will** be appreciating Michael Morpurgo's thrilling novel *Running Wild* and the classic children's story *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. We will also be studying the Kenyan village tale *Mama Panya's Pancakes* by Mary Chamberlin and *Almaz and the Lion* by Jane Kurtz. A short extract from James Vance Marshall's classic novel about the Australian outback *Walkabout* will also come under the spotlight. Disney's *The Lion King* and Spike Jonze's 2009 film version of *Where the Wild Things Are* will also help us to explore the concept of wild and wilderness. Non-fiction work will include writing letters and diary entries around the subject of Africa, and we will also be reading from Veronique Tadjo's African poetry anthology *Talking Drums*.

**As Geographers we will** be learning about the continent of Africa and some of the countries within it. We will explore the political and physical geography of this complex continent and we will investigate the diversity of its landscapes and climate. We will also be comparing life in Africa to that of life in the United Kingdom.

**As Historians we will** be investigating the history of the West African country Benin. We will look at its history as a French colony and explore the challenges that this country faces today. We will also compare the traditions, culture and governance of this country to that of our own.

**As Scientists we will** be identifying and describing the functions of different parts of flowering plants and examine their different techniques for seed dispersal. We will explore the essential elements required for plants to flourish and how these essential elements can vary from plant to plant. We will also be studying animals, (including humans) - identifying the nutritional requirements for certain species.

**The Big Idea:** "Human beings are a part of the animal kingdom, not apart from it. The separation of "us" and "them" creates a false picture and is responsible for much suffering" - Marc Berkoff, Professor of Evolutionary Biology. In this fascinating topic we will explore the concept of 'wild' and 'wilderness' and ask ourselves: *Where on Planet Earth do animals still roam wild? What is it like to live in the wilderness? Were human beings once wild?* From Africa to Australia, Britain to Siberia, we will examine some of the most remote places on Earth - places untouched and unspoiled by human interference. We will examine how conservationists strive to protect the beautiful wild lands that are under threat from hunters and developers, and reflect on the struggle to safeguard endangered wild animals from extinction. Join us as we endeavor to unlock our 'wild' selves and fearlessly journey into the untamed lands of our world.

**As Mathematicians we will** be continuing to develop our calculation skills for multiplication and division. We will begin to learn our 4 times tables. Learning our times tables will also continue to be essential. We will begin to find fractions of shapes and numbers. We will be exploring measure by adding and subtracting amount of money. We will also explore perimeter and area. We will be developing our statistics skills to create bar graphs and pictograms.

### Across the curriculum

**As Athletes we will** be developing our football skills as well as developing our agility, balance and co-ordination.

**As Theologians we will** be investigating how festivals and worship show what matters to Muslims. We will also examine how and why people mark the significant events of life.

**As members of our community we will** investigate the unique qualities that make us all individuals and celebrate the diversity of our cultures.

**As Musicians we will** be exploring the music of Africa by experimenting with percussion instruments, such as xylophones and drums. The music from *The Lion King* will also be enjoyed and sung.

**As speakers of French we will** explore the animal kingdom and use colours to describe animals.

**As Artists we will** be creating our own Ghanaian Kente Cloth using paper and weaving. We will create African pictures using silhouettes and we study the texture and pattern of wild animal prints. We will develop our painting and drawing skills this term and will use a variety of different mediums to create different effects.

**As Computer Programmers we will** be using Movie-Maker to create a documentary about Africa.

**As Design Technologists we will** be designing and making our own African printing tools in order to create wonderful African prints.

### Knowledge of the World

How have the borders of Africa's countries changed over time? Why are so many of these borders straight lines? We will also take part in a 'live link-up' to somebody that lives in Ethiopia.

### The Arts and Sports

What type of sport is Africa famous for? Who are Africa's sporting heroes and sporting legends?

### Enquiry

Did the human face actually originate in Africa? What evidence is there to support this theory?

### Ambition and Possibilities

Which African countries would you like to visit? Why would you choose these particular countries? What would you do there?