

Year 6 - The Unexplained

Autumn Term



As Language Specialists we will debate whether UFOs, The Loch Ness Monster, Ghosts, Vampires, Ancient Miniature People and the Bermuda Triangle are realities or merely great fictions of our time. We will use these as writing prompts for newspapers, instructions, etc. We will be reading extracts from the eternal classic *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, using it as inspiration for class discussion. We will examine fantastic fairy tales, such as *The Little Mermaid*. We will also be appreciating Edgar Allen Poe's poem *The Raven*, using this to explore the genre at large and to learn about performance writing. In addition, we will be watching current news items investigating strange phenomena to discuss and debate in class as well as using animations from The Literacy Shed to create stories in the horror genre and writing instructions based on the paranormal theme.

As Geographers we will use maps to plot sightings of unexplained phenomena. We will be developing our understanding of latitude, longitude, the equator, the tropics, the polar regions and time zones. We will also be locating, naming and describing the world's continents, countries and oceans using atlases, globes and virtual maps.

As Historians we will look in detail at Early Islamic Civilisation, exploring their influence on global society. We will use our mapping skills to locate Baghdad and compare it with London at the time, including mathematical and scientific achievements. We will follow the Silk Road to establish the routes of influence and explore this great age of discovery whose effects were felt globally; pupils will become aware of the inventions that shape their world today.

As Scientists we will be delving deep into shadows and exploring the properties of light! Year 6 will be investigating the mysteries and theories about how light travels and changes depending on surfaces. We will look at the wonders of the remarkable human body and how the eye works. We will carry out scientific investigations as well as using enquiry and research skills to enhance our learning and feed our curiosity.

The Big Idea: "It's highly unlikely, but not outside the realms of extreme possibility" declared Agent Scully, the intrepid conspiracy theorist from the 1990's popular TV series *The X-Files*. In this wonderful topic, we will investigate the unexplained phenomenon that has fascinated us over the decades. Are aliens amongst us? Are mermaids real? How can the sightings of the Loch Ness Monster be validated? What really happened to the *Mary Celeste*? As investigators we will explore such questions, researching and presenting evidence and debating and discussing theories as we attempt to unravel these great mysteries of *the unexplained*!

As Mathematicians we will examine the mysterious and magical properties of prime numbers, considering why it is widely thought by astronomers that the language of extra-terrestrial communication would be founded on these strange numerical oddities. We will also be applying what we know to real-life problems, using skills such as: times-tables, conversions, decimals, fractions and percentages.

Across the curriculum

As Athletes we will be developing our basketball and rugby skills and practising our apparatus work in gymnastics.

As Theologians we will consider the importance of life style and reincarnation to the Hindu faith and what it means to be a Muslim in Britain today.

As members of our community we will endeavour to listen to and understand the views and opinions of others, developing our ability to empathise with and appreciate different perspectives.

As Musicians we will be listening to some of the great film composers such as Bernard Herrmann, John Williams and Mica Levi. We will identify how these musical greats create suspense in their music and use these techniques in our own compositions.

As speakers of French we will develop new conversational skills and investigate linguistic patterns as we talk about ourselves.

As Artists we will explore the complexities of the work of our class artist. We will work in 3D to plan, design, and create UFOs and aliens. We will study the drawing techniques used by Danish artist John Kenn for his creepy monsters to produce our own detailed monster drawings.

As Computer Programmers we will be improving our coding ability in order to program robots.

As Design Technologists we will be creating our very own soft toy based on the Unexplained which they will design, plan, create and evaluate themselves.

Knowledge of the World

Does the Loch Ness Monster really exist?
If it doesn't, why did this 'mystery' capture the imagination of so many people?
Are there any other unexplained mysteries that you would like to investigate as a Thinker's Project?

The Arts

In art, we will look at 'classic' UFO designs and spaceships and then create our own. Perhaps you could look into the artistic designs of crop circles? They are also a mysterious phenomenon.

Enquiry

How was the Round City of Baghdad so advanced and revolutionary in maths, science and music, when the western part of the world was in the Dark Ages?

Ambition and Possibilities

How can exploring the Unexplained world help broaden our thinking?
Does a lack of 'proof' make things less possible?
How can listening to others and their opinions influence our own thoughts and beliefs?