

# 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 be reading extracts from the eternal classic *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, using it as inspiration for class discussion as well as newspaper reports. We will examine fantastic fairy tales, such as *The Little Mermaid* and *Thumbelina* (which we will compare to the depiction of miniature people in Lynne Reid Banks' classic novel *The Indian in the Cupboard*.) We will also be appreciating Edgar Allen Poe's poem *The Raven* and watching Tim Burton's short film *Vincent* (based on Poe's classic poem, with narration from the master of horror himself, Vincent Price). In addition, we will be watching selected episodes of ITV's 1980's paranormal investigative show *Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers*. Additionally, we will use animations from The Literacy Shed to create stories in the horror genre as well as 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 the edgy musical film scores of Bernard Herrmann, analysing how he creates suspense, peril and melodrama within his music - as well as appreciating the theme tune from his most famous tune of all, *The Twilight Zone*.

**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

Were there miniature human-like creatures that roamed the Earth thousands of years ago?  
Does the Loch Ness Monster really exist?  
What is the truth behind the strange sightings around Area 51?

### The Arts and Sports

What are the main theories for the strange crop circle incidents that perennially occur across the world? How on earth are these patterns made without a trace of human involvement?

### Enquiry

What is *déjà vu*? Have you experienced it? If you have, what does it mean? We will investigate this common, yet unnerving, phenomenon.

### Ambition and Possibilities

How can exploring the Unexplained world help us to make sense of our own reality? Through exploration of source material of the paranormal, we will develop our reasoning skills in debating and persuasion.