



Year 2 Summer Term: Brave Explorers

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 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 *Brave Explorers*!

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 and Ellen MacArthur will come under the spotlight.

As Scientists we will be investigating the basic needs of animals and plants. We will also be looking at the importance of exercise and hygiene in order to stay healthy.

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*.

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?

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, height, distance, length (cm, m), mass (g, kg) and temperature (°C). We will relate the distances of our everyday lives to the massive distances of the Earth and Space. How far away is the moon? How high is the sky? How much salt is in the sea? We will use all of our mathematical endeavour to try and understand these epic questions and answers! We will be consolidating calculation skills including addition, subtraction (also finding the difference), multiplication and division, as well as mastering our 2, 5 and 10 times-tables. Also, we will be learning to tell the time (to quarter hour intervals and 5 minutes) and using and applying positional and directional language.

Across the curriculum

As Athletes we will be exploring different ways of travelling, throwing and jumping. We will be improving our technique in track and field events and will become more knowledgeable athletes. We will also become effective and proficient swimmers.

As Theologians we will be exploring who is Muslim and how do they live? We will be looking at inspirational Muslims and will consider what makes them so important.

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.

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.