Wild at Heart

Year 3 Spring Term



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?* On our safari through Africa we will examine some of the most remote places on Earth - places untouched and un-spoilt by human interference. We will examine how conservationists strive to protect the beautiful wild lands that are under threat from human activity, 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 Language Specialists we will be appreciating Isatou Ceesay's fascinating crusade to tackle the devastating environment impact of plastic in Gambia through her book *One plastic bag*. We will be stretching the realms of our imagination and powers of description through the classic children's story *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. The video clip *Zahra's Struggle* will give us the opportunity to develop our creative writing. 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. In our whole class reading of *The Hodgeheg* by Dick King-Smith and *Harry the poisonous centipede* by Lynne Reid Banks we will be finding out about our native wild animals and their interaction with the human world. Non-fiction work will include writing letters and leaflets around the subject of Africa.

As Mathematicians we will continue to develop our calculation skills for multiplication and division, focusing particularly on our 3, 4 and 8 times tables, building on our previously learnt times tables to reinforce our understanding of multiplication and division. We will be studying fractions of shapes and numbers. We will explore measure by adding and subtracting amounts of money and explore perimeter and area. We will be developing our statistical skills to create bar graphs and pictograms.

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 going back in time to prehistoric Africa, mapping Africa's history on a timeline to present day. As a case study, we will also 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. Finally, we will look at the significant impact Nelson Mandela had on the African continent.

As Scientists we will find out the benefits of having a skeleton and investigate how other animals without a skeleton move around.
Later in the term, 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.

Across the curriculum
As Athletes we will be developing our netball skills. We will be improving our orienteering and journeying skills in outdoor and adventurous activities.
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 be developing the skills of forming and maintaining positive and healthy relationships.
As Musicians we will be exploring African music through singing, dancing and djembe drumming. We will also be composing our own djembe drumming composition and learning to describe the differences between African and Western compositions.
As speakers of French we will be exploring the animal kingdom and use colours to describe animals.
As Artists we will be discovering the bold colours and repeated patterns of Ghanaian Kente cloth, designing, painting and weaving our own paper version over several weeks. We will also explore African art through vibrant colour, mixed media and silhouettes, including animals set against colourful painted backgrounds.
As Computer Programmers we will be using Adobe Paint to create African patterns.
As Design Technologists we will be designing and making our own African fabric cushion developing our abilities to attach one medium to another.

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 be trying to understand our world through the eyes of an African child.

The Arts and Sports
What type of art is Africa famous for? Who are Africa's sporting heroes and sporting legends?

Enquiry
Did the human race 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?