



# Year 4 Summer Term: Tales of the Bearly Believable



**As Language Specialists we will** study the stories that push the very boundaries of our imagination. From Michael Bond's *Paddington Bear* to Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park* and Ray Bradbury's *Sound of Thunder*, we will endeavour to understand the very essence of 'extreme' fiction and consider why these fantastical tales are so cherished and popular. Linking with themes of exploration and discovery we will enjoy Kensuke's Kingdom - a classic by Michael Morpurgo. We will delve into the fantasy worlds of JRR Tolkien (*The Hobbit*) and JK Rowling (*Harry Potter*) and consider whether these tales contain important messages about the way in which we live our lives today. Shakespeare's magical comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will allow us to experience theatrical fantasy, and watching footage of Merian C. Cooper's classic monster movie *King Kong* will allow us to marvel at how empathy can be created even in the most fanciful of stories. As well as this, we will be exploring a range of non-fiction texts to enhance our understanding of all things Aztec!

**As Geographers we will** investigate the 300 million year old super-continent *Pangea* and consider how tectonic plates and the *Mid- Atlantic Ridge* have shaped our world today. We will also be exploring England's *Jurassic Coast*, examining the fossil evidence that reveals that terrible monsters from the depths of our worst nightmares really did roam the Earth!

**As Historians we will** be investigating the lives of renowned conservationist Dian Fossey and original archaeologist Mary Anning. We will discover what an archaeologist does and how they have helped to shape our world today. We will also be examining the unbelievable civilisation known as the Aztecs - considering how some of their cultural practices were even more incredible than any fantasy story!

**As Scientists we will** be exploring and classifying living things and creating food chains for exotic creatures and fictional beasts. We will investigate how animals rely on their habitats and research some of the most unbelievable and mind-boggling creatures the planet has ever seen! We will also be learning about the mysteries of sound and vibration.  
**As Design Technologists we will** be designing and making a fantastical fictional beast and creating a habitat for it to thrive in.

**The Big Idea:** From talking bears to 60 foot 'lizards', *Tales of the Bearly Believable* invites you to consider the incredible realities and epic fantasies of our fascinating world. Can dinosaurs be brought back to life? Why did Aztecs sacrifice so many people? Why do writers create stories about talking animals? As book and film critics we will consider how authors and film makers 'suspend our disbelief' and make us believe the 'impossible'. As historians we will examine how the 'impossible' is merely just part of nature's grand plan. Join us as we attempt to make sense of how Earth's amazing history is even more incredible than our most fanciful stories!

**As Mathematicians we will** be reconsolidating our previous skills and developing these further. Learning our times tables will also be essential this term. We will be investigating the different use of decimals and real-life application, whilst also measuring and understanding the concept of time. In addition, we will be collating data, exploring statistics and finding out about the properties of shape.

## Across the curriculum

**As Athletes we will** be developing our athletics skills including shotput, javelin and hurdles. We will also be developing our techniques in running and improving our sprint starts and finishes.

**As Theologians we will** be studying the 'Trinity' and will be considering why it is important to Christians. We will also explore the impact of Pentecost.

**As members of our community we will** be reflecting on our rights and responsibilities as citizens and exploring 'what makes a good neighbour'. We will relate this to some controversial Aztec cultural practices, whereby we will probably establish that the Aztecs were the worst neighbours in human history.

**As Musicians we will** be appreciating the nature-inspired classical music of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, as well as continuing to develop our string instrument skills.

**As speakers of French we will** be creating and describing our own extraordinary animals.

**As Artists we will** be inspired by the water colours and sketches of *Paddington* illustrator, Peggy Fortnum, as well as trying to pay homage to some of the unbelievable tessellating optical illusions created by MC Escher and Tang Yau Hoong.

**As Computer Programmers we will** be using Microsoft Publisher to create our own travel brochures - persuading eager holiday makers to explore some of South America's most fascinating locations and cultures. We will also be presenting our learning about the Pentecost in various multimedia formats.

## Knowledge of the World

Is the story of the *Lost City of Atlantis* a fantasy or a reality? Is it historical fact or literary fiction? We will delve into the annals of ancient history to establish the truth about this legendary story.

## The Arts and Sports

Can we create and play our own fantastical sports and games based on JK Rowling's *Quidditch* and the *Triwizard* tournament?

## Enquiry

Who discovered dinosaurs?  
Why is there no household name associated with this epic discovery?  
What were the *Bone Wars*?

## Ambition and Possibilities

Can we create our own *stop-motion* animated monster movies?  
Can we scare a captive audience with tense action and impending peril?  
Is it possible to rival the cinematic masterpiece that is *King Kong*?