

# Mysteries

**YEAR GROUP: 6**

**DATE: Spring 1**

To Try New Things

To Work Hard

To Concentrate

To Push Ourselves

To Imagine

To Improve

To Understand Others

To Not Give up



## Mysteries

### STIMULUS/LAUNCH/CHALLENGE/FINAL PRODUCT

This themed unit is based on mysteries from around the world. The children will be investigating a mysterious story in Literacy based on a picture book: "The Water Tower" by Gary Crew and Steven Woolman. They will also be investigating the mysteries of the Mayan Civilisation. The challenge for the half term is to investigate a range of mysteries both fact and fiction and to create our own detective/mystery stories. The unit will start with a mystery for the class to solve. They will come into the classroom on the first day back and discover that there have been some mysterious goings on. They look at the clues and evidence that have been left in the classroom (symbol on water bottles and taps, green liquid, test tube and piece of pipe) and discuss what they could be. They are then given clues in envelopes in groups which are related to The Water Tower book. They have to try and work out what has happened to the people in Preston. They then read the first paragraph from the book. Discuss this - why is it there? Who could have built it? Why an egg shape? Why is it important etc? The children then build their own Watertower using only simple resources. On day 2, the children are going to do a Market Place activity (peer teaching) to find out and teach about different famous mysteries. They will then have a philosophical discussion about - What is a mystery/myth? Where do they come from? Why do they stay around?

## LITERACY

**As Writers and Readers**, we will be using "The Water Tower" by Gary Crew and Steven Woolman to stimulate our writing. We will take part in Drama activities and use figurative language techniques to write descriptions. We will hot-seat the characters and write monologues of their thoughts and feelings. We will explore the books using inference and deduction to try to interpret the mystery of the story through the illustrations and the words. We will also use Anthony Horowitz's - The Lift to stimulate our story writing. We will create our own mystery stories - to include passive voice and shifts in formality.

**WHOLE CLASS READING** - We will be using the 'The London Eye Mysteries' by 'Siobhan Dowd to teach a range of reading skills.

## MATHS

**As mathematicians** we will continue to calculate using fractions and mixed numbers. We will explore the relationships between fractions, decimals and percentages and calculate percentages of given amount. We will also be multiplying and dividing using numbers with up to two decimal places. Finally, we will be using simple algebraic formulae to solve problems.

## SCIENCE

**As Scientists** we will explore electricity and investigate how outputs vary when variables are changed in electrical circuits. We will also learn about the theme of Space in our science fortnight.

## HUMANITIES

**As Historians** we will be discovering the mysteries of the Mayan civilisation. We will look at the discoveries of the archaeologists and what this has told us about this civilisation. **As Geographers**, we will be researching Mexico historically and today and trying to explain some of the changes. We will be looking at the Human and Physical geography. We will compare different geographical representations. We will think about how Physical features affect the human activity in a place.

## COMPUTING

**As users of technology** we will be using the internet to research the Mayans. We will also develop our coding skills using 'Scratch'.

## MUSIC

Singing - Year 6 production songs.

## PE

Invasion games exploring the wide world of sports, e.g. kabaddi, dodgeball.

## ART/D.T.

**As Artists** we will be discussing Mayan art and creating our own Mayan art work. This will include Mayan masks and calendars.

## ENRICHMENT

Science Fortnight - Space themed

## GLOBAL DIMENSION/RE/ PHILOSOPHY/PSHE

**As Global citizens** we will be learning about Mayan areas in and around Mexico. **As Religiously Literate individuals** we will be looking at the Mayan Religion and their belief in Gods and how this affected their lives.