

Universe: Stargazers

Year 5/6 - Term 4



Our project for this half term, 'Stargazers', will teach the children about space – the final frontier.

We will learn about our solar system, exploring the Earth, moon and planets. Children will learn about night and day, memorise the order of the planets through handy mnemonics and study the different phases of the moon.

Our project will begin by delving into the history of space discovery, where children will learn about important findings and explorations into space and space travel. From Galileo's discovery of the true shape of the moon to the Space Race and the fight to be the most advanced nation technologically, children will have an understanding of how space exploration has developed throughout history.

By the end of the topic, children will have a wider understanding of space, including the space programme NASA, who still work at the forefront of space exploration. They will have a deeper knowledge of the great minds who discovered the undiscovered and of the universe itself.

English

In English this term we are going to be covering a range of genres including a free write, explanation, a comparative description and a narrative. We will use our topic theme of Stargazers as the inspiration for the different pieces of writing.

For our explanation, the students will have the opportunity to design and create their own rocket, writing an explanation on how their vehicle will work.

Through the use of visual literacy, we will create a comparative description considering the changes that have happened to Earth from the perspective of a traveller who has left the planet. Through this, we will consider environmental impacts and technological advances.

Taking inspiration from myths from around the world, students will create their own 'moon myths', creating their own legends about the moon.

Science

In this topic, children will learn about the science of space and the universe.

We will learn about the solar system and the movement of the planets. Students will explore what the planets orbit and learn the order of the planets.

Children will learn about day and night and how they come to be.

We will work scientifically to investigate these different areas of science and space.



As our topic is science-based, we will be exploring the universe across the curriculum!

Maths

Through studying space, we will look at measures and conversions such as converting miles to km and metres to km.

We will continue to look at shape, finding the volume of cubes and cuboids, drawing 2D shapes and finding missing angles of shapes.

We will look at algebraic formulas – replicating Mathematicians such as Katherine Johnson who was critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S crewed spaceflights.

Within our cross-curricular themed days (such as Shakespeare Day), we will complete cross-curricular Maths covering areas such as money.

In Year Six, we will be working on preparation for SATs assessments through developing our knowledge of Arithmetic and Reasoning.

Personal Development

We will:

- Complete a SCARF unit of work on Valuing Difference. This unit considers qualities of friendship, how to undertake kind conversations, how to be happy being me, alongside other areas for discussion.

History

We will:

- Understand what the Space Race was and which countries were involved.
- Study Scientists throughout history who have made discoveries about space including Galileo and Copernicus.

Computing

We will:

- Design, Code, Test and Debug.
- Create a programme that contains an IF statement.
- Make use of the X and Y properties of objects in their coding.
- Understand, code and programme an IF/ELSE statement.
- Explain, create and use variables when programming.
- Make a playable game.

R.E

We will:

- Look at the Easter story and consider the Christian beliefs around this festival.
- Consider our life journey and what our dreams are for the future.

Geography

We will:

- Study the Earth from Space and investigate the environmental changes over time, using Digimaps and documentary resources.
- Learn about the location of NASA.

Spanish

We will:

- Name and recognise the planets in Spanish on a solar system map.
- Spell at least five of the planets in Spanish.
- Say an interesting fact about at least four of the planets in Spanish.
- Explain the basic rules of adjectival agreement.

P.E

We will:

- Create a gymnastics routine, considering techniques such as balance and partner work.
- Develop our Communication and Teambuilding skills through outdoor activities.
- Complete weekly Swimming lessons to achieve 25m certificate.

Art & D.T

We will:

- After looking closely at images of lunar surfaces, we will use textiles, including a range of fabric, thread and embellishments to create artwork replicating the surface of the moon.
- Create a painted image based on the phases of the moon.

Music

We will:

- Look at songs in the genre of Old School Hip Hop – focusing on The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air by Will Smith.
- Compose our own piece of music based on The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.
- Learn and sing Easter songs.

Additional Information

P.E Day

In Year 5/6, our P.E day will be on a Friday. Some students will attend Swimming lessons, whilst the students that remain will complete their P.E lessons in school.

Key Dates

Monday 14th March
Science Week

Thursday 28th March
Shakespeare Day

Tuesday 5th April
Think Tank Trip

Home Learning

Each week, children in Year 5/6 will receive Home Learning for Maths and English each week. They will receive English Home Learning on a Tuesday and Maths Home Learning on a Friday.

Other

There are a wide range of sporting events arranged for this term that your child may be invited onto. These will take place during the school day.

Reading

Students are expected to complete 5 Reading Journal entries every week.

They will read their Oxford Owl scheme book, or a Reading for Pleasure book, and will answer questions on their reading that day.

Please ensure that your child is confident with their times tables – a key skill to support them with their Maths learning.