

Welcome to the Creative Lab!

Our theme for this term is 'Rainforests'.

We add to the rainforest each week by making animals and plants so eventually the lab will become the Amazon Rainforest!

Children from Oak, Beech, Elm and Maple class will visit the Lab in small groups, on a weekly basis. It will allow mixed ages to learn from each other and collaborate. They will spend the whole morning learning, exploring and creating!

They will find out facts about the rainforest through Geography, Science, Literacy, Numeracy, Art, DT, Music, movement and ICT. We will also use the children's knowledge, ideas and questions to gear the learning that takes place. It will be a place where the children have fun, through practical investigation and creativity.

Here are some of the things we will be learning this term:-

Geography

- Find out where the rainforests are in the world. Use maps and atlases to locate where they are in relation to where we live.
- What are rainforests like? - their climate, the weather, compare rainfall in the UK to the Amazon.
- Explore the important part the rainforests play in the water cycle.
- Identify and describe the four layers of the rainforest and what plants and animals live in each layer.
- Who lives in the rainforest? Exploring the way of life of the 'Yanomami' tribe, including housing, clothing, hunting and traditions.
- Why are rainforests under threat? Identify ways we can help save the rainforests.

Science

- What different types of plants grow in the rainforest? Identify and describe a variety of plants.
- What animals live in the rainforest? Investigate the behaviour of particular animals. Sort animals into groups.
- What food grows in the rainforest?
- Make a mini rainforest terrarium, observing how the plants stay healthy and grow.

Art

- Make a rainforest in a box- defining the different layers.
- Make plants and animals using collage, painting, drawing and cutting skills.
- Explore the art of 'Henri Rousseau'. Finding out who he was, when he lived and the kind of art he produced. The children will then create their own jungle paintings in the style of the artist.

Music

- Listen to rainforest sounds and describe what they can hear. Recreate the sounds using body sounds, percussion instruments and everyday objects. The children will learn about the elements of music, e.g. dynamics (loud and quiet) and texture (layering of sounds).
- They will create their own compositions to depict certain animals and weather sounds.
- The children will sing and learn a variety of rainforest songs.
- Make musical instruments such as rain sticks by filling cans with different objects eg. rice, beans dried pasta etc.

Literacy

- Read a variety of fiction books linked to rainforests:- The Umbrella, The Great Kapok Tree, The Rainforest Grew All Around,just to name a few.
- Writing fact files about various animals.
- Using books and the Internet to write facts about the rainforests.
- Make little books about animals, layers of the rainforest and plants.
- Descriptive writing about what you can see, hear, smell and how you might feel in the rainforest.
- Role-play- re-enacting stories using masks, puppets and props to imagine what it would be like to live there.
- Writing newspaper articles to show how the rainforests should be protected.

Numeracy

- Reading graphs and charts to answer questions about rainforest climates and rainfall.
- Make own rain gauge and measure the daily rainfall using own scale.
- Construct line and bar graphs to present data-use Carroll diagrams and branching data bases to sort rainforest organisms.

These are just some of the activities we will be doing whilst your children visit the lab.

Thank you to all of you who sent in shoeboxes. They are being put to good use to make the different layers of the rainforest.

We will be making rain sticks next week so if you have any 'Pringles' tubes or cylindrical tubes with lids they would be gratefully received.

Many thanks and if you have any questions regarding the work we are doing in the Creative Lab please don't hesitate to contact school.

Mrs Fielding & Mrs Clarkson.