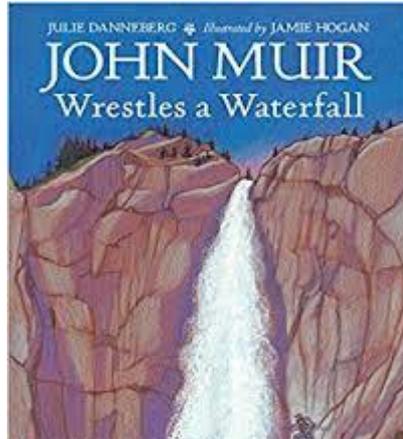


Class Three

Curriculum Overview



PIONEERS

Autumn Term

(to October 19th 2018)

Pioneers

The Curriculum

English

Our topic this half term is 'Pioneers.' As part of our Forest Schools sessions over the course of this academic year, the children will be completing a qualification called 'The John Muir Award.' John Muir was a nature enthusiast and one of the pioneers of conservation, who lived in America in the 19th Century. His inspiring and courageous work led to Theodore Roosevelt starting The National Park movement in the USA. We will begin our English lessons by researching John Muir and finding out about his life. We will then read Julie Danneberg's story, 'John Muir Wrestles a Waterfall,' before trying to write our own versions of her non-fiction narrative of his life.

'The Wolves of Currumpaw' by William Grill, will then feature heavily in our English lessons, as we begin to learn more about conservation and the impact that the pioneers and hunters had on the wolf population in America during the late 1800s. We will analyse the main characters of King Lobo and Seton and will listen to famous speeches by people such as Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Winston Churchill, before writing our own rallying speeches, thinking about people who led inspirational lives. Having studied this novel, analysing some of the literary techniques used by William Grill, we will write formal and informal letters, capturing the emotional struggles faced by Ernest Thompson Seton and the way in which killing Old Lobo completely changed his life.

We will then move onto thinking about wolves today and how most people perceive these creatures. Considering the question, 'Should wolves be re-introduced into The British Isles?' we will write our own balanced arguments and then debate our opinions in class.

We will have a daily spelling lesson, using the 'No Nonsense' spelling programme to boost our ability to recognise spelling patterns, add new words to our vocabulary and to spell trickier or unfamiliar words. Usually we will focus on a spelling rule, pattern or sound each week e.g. the vowel sound 'ee', adding -ed to regular verbs or homophones. The weekly spellings will be a continuation of what we have been learning in class and should be reinforced by being learnt and practised at home.

Guided Reading

We will also have daily guided reading sessions, during which the children will take part in a number of different activities. During each week, your child will complete written tasks based on a shared book, practice independent comprehension questions, read aloud with Mr Wedick and continue to read an independent reading choice of their own.

Maths

Number work will start with extending and reinforcing knowledge of place value, up to and beyond six figure numbers. Mental and written strategies of addition and subtraction will form a large

part of the work early in the term and later, we will be extending written strategies for multiplication and division.

Fractions, percentages and decimal equivalences; ratio and proportion; capacity and data handling are also other areas that will be covered. At all times, the children will be encouraged to use mental and written strategies and explain their working.

You can help your child by helping them to learn tables' facts thoroughly, including knowing related division facts. As I mentioned in 'Homework,' there will be regular tables' tests and speed and accuracy of tables' knowledge will make a huge difference to your child's learning.

Science

In Science we will be focusing on 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. We will start by looking at the work that naturalists, conservationists and animal behaviourists carry out and discussing why it is important. We will then look at the ways in which plants and animals can be categorised and classified, creating classification keys to identify a selection of animals native to Yellowstone National Park. The children will then use their expertise to research and create their own classification keys for a selection of living things from own habitat within The New Forest.

Art

We will explore how careful and imaginative use of pencil, crayon, ruler, needle and cottons may be used to create repeated, reflective and overlapping designs.

French

We will orally revise and practise the words and phrases we use to introduce ourselves to others and to tell them about our families and ourselves. We will then learn how to write simple phrases using this vocabulary.

Music

We will develop our vocal skills by singing songs from different genres, paying attention to diction, awareness of phrasing, accurate pitch and dynamics with the aim of increasing self-confidence and musical awareness.

Listening to a range of music we will discuss musical features such as how instruments and rhythms may be used both alone and together to create different effects and atmospheres.

Using a variety of instruments, the children will compose music in groups; creativity of ideas, ability to listen to others and quality of performance and evaluation being the main aims.

PE

We will continue to use the REAL PE scheme in Class, as well as developing a greater awareness of achieving our own personal bests. We will start the year by working on our social skills and attitudes within games, thinking about ways of developing more effective ways of communication during different types of

activities. We will also consider using non-verbal communication techniques and will apply this to our tactical thinking within a range of games, including; handball, basketball and throw tennis.

RE

The first theme we will be focusing on in Class 3 this year will be the key concept of God and Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We will be looking closely at the different ways that people describe God, thinking about what Christians and people from other religious backgrounds believe about God and how their beliefs can be useful to us in our lives. Finally, we will try to answer the important question, 'What does it mean if God is loving and holy?'

PLC (Philosophy for Children) and PSHE

The focus of our philosophical enquires this half term will be 'Whose Land is it Anyway?' This will relate to our topic of Pioneers as we think about the ways in which our world has changed in the last 100 years, dramatically affecting our wolf population, as well as many other species of animals and plants.

We will consider the work of environmentalists and conservationists and the possible re-introduction of wolves to Scotland, before trying to answer the question of who has the right to live on the land in the first place.

Useful Websites

Maths

<http://www.mathletics.co.uk/> - This is an award-winning website that allows your child to log in and play maths games against different children from around the world. There are hundreds of different maths activities and problem solving areas for your child to work on, where they can score points and win virtual prizes and certificates. Your child should already have their own log in, which will then enable them to use mathletics at school and at home.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/> - The BBC has a fantastic website called Bitesize, which breaks down different areas of mathematical understanding into small chunks, including fun games and activities and short quizzes. We sometimes use this learning tool in class, so your child should be familiar how to navigate around the site.

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/> - This superb website has a huge range of games, puzzles and maths questions for your child to work on at home. The website is even broken down into different mathematical areas, so if there is a particular area of maths that your child needs more work on, for instance fractions, then there are many ways in which they can practise at home. The site also has a number of times table tests that your child can work on.

English

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/> - This is the English part of the BBC's free Bitesize resources. The site contains helpful revision sections on different strands of English and has lots of fun games, activities and quizzes.

<http://www.morewords.com/> - This is a useful website for working on spellings and spelling patterns with your child. There are also links to lots of word games that your child can play at home, which will no doubt help to improve their spelling accuracy.

<http://www.wordtamer.co.uk/> - A useful website if your child is thinking of writing a story at home and is stuck for ideas or is reluctant to get started. The site takes you through a deserted fairground, where you can work on different elements of story writing e.g. developing characters, describing settings etc. and ultimately, write a story of your own.

Science

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/> - This is the Science part of the BBC's free Bitesize resources. The site contains helpful revision sections on different scientific areas and has lots of fun games, activities and quizzes.

Computing

<https://scratch.mit.edu/parents/> - This site contains useful information for parents about the Scratch programming language and is also where you can download the software (for free!) to use at home.