

The Wilds of South America

In Geography, we'll be developing our knowledge of place and what an amazing place we are going to, the Rainforests of South America! We'll learn how different it is to where we live. We'll learn about biomes (regions of the world with similar climate, animals and plants) and vegetation belts. And of course you can't go to South America without learning something about the incredible Amazon River! There will even be a chance for us to learn about the natural resources found here, including ingredients for making chocolate, think: where it's grown, deforestation, the lives of farmers, suppliers and importers and the role of Fairtrade.

In History, we'll learn about a South American early civilisation, the Mayans c. AD 900, which provides a contrast to British history. Did you know that the Mayans established their cities in the rainforest? They also developed astronomy, calendar and writing systems, as well as building elaborate pyramids and observatories.

In Music, we'll learn all about Samba! You have to if you visit South America! We'll learn some basic samba rhythms and make group compositions. In the second half of the term we'll be identifying orchestra families, using Vivaldi's "Four Seasons".

In Design and Technology, we design, build and evaluate our own shelters. Imagine you have to spend several nights in the Amazon forest, what would your shelter look like and why? Could you recreate this model in real life?

In Art, we'll look closely at carnival masks and their history in South America. We'll collect and explore patterns in South American culture and then use patterns and shapes to design our own carnival masks or headdresses. We'll focus on the life and work of the artist Leonora Carrington.

In Science, we'll be looking at the life cycles, skeletons, muscles and circulatory systems of some familiar (and some less familiar) mammals, amphibians, insects, birds and their habitats. We'll be looking at evolution and inheritance. And we'll also learn about endangered animals and how humans are supporting some endangered animals to increase their population numbers.

In RE, we'll be learning about Buddhist beliefs and value; including how Buddhists live their lives and how this compares to Christians. We'll also try to understand the importance of the Buddha and the Buddha's teachings, as well as learning about how religious festivals are related to key figures, events and stories.

In French, we'll be researching and locating French-speaking countries around the world and explaining what their weather is like. We'll discuss different modes of transport used to get around and describe journeys and features of towns before looking at French traditions for Christmas. We'll even re-tell the Nativity story in French!

