



Rainforests

Topic Statement

Within our geography and science based topic this term, the children will be learning about rainforests. They will begin by learning about maps, understanding key vocabulary related to them, and locating rainforests around the world. They will be learning about the climate in countries with rainforests and will set up rain collections to measure and compare with the climate and weather in South Walsham. Chestnut class will learn about the Yanomami tribe of South America and experiment building structures to replicate the traditional housing of these people.

On the science side, the children will be learning about the types of plants that grow in the rainforest and also how seeds start to grow, life cycles of plants and plant structures. They will be exploring what factors help a plant to germinate by setting up their own broad bean experiments. They will also be carrying out their own ICT research on what types of animals live in the rainforest, particularly endangered species and will be linking this to our writing in English. Throughout the topic, Chestnut Class will get to develop their artistic skills using a range of materials and techniques including paper mache, wax resist, collage, watercolour and leaf printing.

Key words

Northern Hemisphere	Climate
Southern Hemisphere	Weather
Equator	Germinate
Habitat	Emergent
Species	Canopy
Endangered	Understory
Life cycle	Shrub
	Deforestation



Main National Curriculum objectives

Geography:

- Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of the UK and a contrasting non-European country.
- Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns, and hot and cold areas around the world in relation to the equator, North Pole and South Pole.
- Use basical geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical and human features.
- Use world maps, atlases and globes to identify countries and continents studied at this stage.

Science:

- Identify the basic structure of a variety of flowering plants and trees.
- Explore and compare the difference between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive.
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats and microhabitats.
- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants.
- Observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into plants.
- Find out how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow.