



Year 5 Topic Web – Autumn 2 – 2021

Hola Mexico!



	What we will be covering in class	Supporting your child's learning at home
Engage	Feel like celebrating? Well then, we welcome everyone to the magnificent land of Mexico! Together, we will start our trip by jumping straight into the fun-packed festival of 'Dia de los Muertos,' also known as 'Day of the Dead!' This is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and acknowledged in other countries. However, hold on tight because throughout this exhilarating beginning of our topic, we will also be making traditional and contemporary fruit drinks, follow and look at a range of savoury dishes and learn the Mexican folk dance of 'El Jarabe Tapatio;' the electrifying Mexican hat dance!	Mexico has three colours on its flag; green, white and red. Discuss what these colours might symbolise and why they were used.
Develop	During this stage of the topic, children will use a range of sources to explore desert settings and imagine that the Chihuahuan Desert itself, is their new Mexican home, before creating postcards to embellish and retell our imagined experiences. Children will fully embrace traditional Mexican music before exploring how different instruments produce these musical vibes. They will be learning about Mexico as a country and find out about daily life in Mexico, especially what it is like for children of a similar age to them. Children will be reading and performing a range of Maya legends, while also uncovering who are some of the Mexican Gods and Goddesses. Children will also discover fascinating facts about aspects of the ancient Maya civilisation before tasting authentic, thick, spicy hot chocolate and creating amazing stone carvings similar to intricate Maya statues (stelae).	Mexico is an exciting and interesting country. Perhaps find out more about it by using the internet, visiting a local library or going to a travel agent? Did you know that Mexico is home to many exotic plants and animals? Explore why Mexico is a good, suitable habitat for some of these creatures, including the 50 species of hummingbird!
Innovate	Children will take part in their very own Mexican processional march! Together we will choose and adapt a piece of Maya music, fill the air with musical sounds, create the beat of drums, hear the rattle of shells and the haunting sounds of our own wind instruments. Children will think about and make their own ceremonial clothing and jewellery to wear in order to recreate the Maya dress as much as possible. Children will then take part in their own procession with pride... we wonder if the Mexican Gods will be pleased?	Mexicans are obsessed with breaking Guinness World Records. Can you find out and discuss some of the records broken? Continue to support your child's mental maths skills by helping them to practise their times tables and number facts.
Express	Children will use their exciting experiences to create their own Maya free-verse poems to perform to show our learning before finishing this topic in true style. This is because, as a treat for all of our hard work, children will make and enjoy sweet Mexican ice pops, learn a little bit of Spanish and make their very own class cardboard piñata to burst open! How exciting!	Your child should have Times Table Rock Stars' logins, encourage them to log on regularly.

Math	There will be a continued emphasis on mental maths skills, children will have many opportunities to improve the speed, and accuracy of their calculations by completing times tables and daily arithmetic sheets. In particular, children will be introduced to advanced written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will practise using these methods when encountering questions and reasoning problems. Our main focus will be 'Multiplication and Division' and 'Perimeter and Area' this term.		
English	Children will be using 'Coco' and the Day of the Dead celebration as inspiration to write portal narratives. They will also be writing an explanation of 'How to play an Ancient Maya ball game'. In class, we will be reading 'Holes'.		
Science	We will also be looking at properties and changes in materials. This class will learn about different materials, their uses and their properties, as well as dissolving, separating mixtures and irreversible changes. The children will sort and classify objects according to their properties. They will explore the properties of materials to find the most suitable material for different purposes. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the best thermal insulator to make a lunch box, making predictions and forming conclusions. They will have the opportunity to work in a hands-on way to explore dissolving, identifying the different variables in their own investigations. They will find out about different ways to separate mixtures of materials, using filtering, sieving and evaporating. Finally, they will learn about irreversible changes.		
Art & Design	Children will use a range of materials to create 3D 'day of the dead' skulls, carve an intricate Maya statue.	PE	Children will be taught seated balance and control skills this term.
Computing	Children will be finding out about search engines and learning to recognise that not everything online is true.	PSHE	Children will continue to develop Growth Mindset skills and find out about British Values.
D & T	Children will explore, create and taste a range of traditional and contemporary Mexican dishes. They will also make a building, for a national project, out of junk materials.	French	Children will be using French to talk about and describe themselves, including parts of the body, what they look like, what they are doing, how they are feeling and what they are wearing. They will learn a little bit of generic Spanish too.
Music	Children will be listening to, learning and singing Mexican themed music. Also they will be learning the songs and dances for Young Voices, focusing on performance skills.	RE	Children will continue to consider 'Why some people believe in God and some people don't' and how this impacts their way of thinking and living.