



Year 5 Topic Web – Autumn 2 – 2022

Hola Mexico!



	What we will be covering in class	Supporting your child's learning at home
Engage	<p>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!</p>	<p>Mexico has three colours on its flag; green, white and red. Discuss what these colours might symbolise and why they were used.</p>
Develop	<p>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).</p>	<p>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?</p> <p>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!</p>
Innovate	<p>Children will take part in their very own Mexican processional march!</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>Mexicans are obsessed with breaking Guinness World Records. Can you find out and discuss some of the records broken?</p>
Express	<p>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!</p>	<p>Continue to support your child's mental maths skills by helping them to practise their times tables and number facts.</p> <p>Your child should have Times Table Rock Stars' logins, encourage them to log on regularly.</p>

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 'Fractions' this term.	
English	As we learn about the Festival of Dia de los Muertos, children will write Haikus, inspired by the Day of the Dead. 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	As we find out about the Maya, children will find out about statues and carve an intricate Maya Stelae.	PE In this Gymnastics: Shape and Balance unit, children will learn how to use gymnastics shapes and balances to communicate their learning about space.
Computing	Data handling: Mars Rover 1. They will learn how data is transferred and how to write binary code.	PSHE In Growing up, they will be exploring the physical and emotional changes that we go through.
D & T	Children will explore, create and taste a range of traditional and contemporary Mexican dishes.	French In All About Ourselves, they will learn about clothes and the body, describe their own appearance and be introduced to some key grammatical features of French. They will also talk about their emotions and health, increasing their conversational skills.
Music	Children are introduced to musical theatre, learning how singing, acting and dancing can be combined to give an overall performance.	RE Alongside finding out about the celebrations of Diwali and Day of the Dead, they will start by questioning the meaning of Christmas to them and then learn about the Christian meaning of Christmas.