

English:

We will be using our key texts to write an explanation on the causes of and the problems associated with deforestation. We will then be writing a dilemma story, focusing on how we describe settings and characters as well as presenting dialogue correctly. Finally, we will be writing non-chronological reports about one of the many animals found in the rainforest.

Art:

We will learn about the symbolism of animals in the Kingdom of Benin, and make a tile using salt dough, inspired by the Benin Bronzes.

History:

We will be learning all about the Kingdom of Benin in history this half term, from it's beginnings in the 900's in the rainforest of West Africa to it's eventual demise in 1897, when it was invaded by Britain and made a part of the British Empire. We will look at important people, the role of slavery and consider whether historical artefacts in British museums should be returned to Nigeria.

Science: Forces

We will be learning about forces that are present in our world through a variety of different investigations and tests. We will look at friction, air resistance, and buoyancy, as well as gravity, where we will use Newton metres to measure the force present in different objects.

What Makes Rainforests Remarkable?

Geography:

We will be using modern maps of Africa to establish where the ancient city of Benin was located within the continent of Africa. We will discuss the physical geography of the area.

Schools of Sanctuary:

This half term our learning will be tied to our history work on the ancient kingdom of Benin. We will be considering how museum artefacts are often viewed through a colonial lens and looking at the partitioning of Africa.

Texts:

- The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
- DK Eyewitness Amazon
- Ride of Passage (short film)



Maths:

This half term, we will continue to focus on Number. We will explore multiplication and division through known facts, multiples and factors and how to calculate using formal written methods. We will also begin to explore fractions; how they're compared, ordered and calculated with.

RE:

We will be learning what some important philosophers throughout history have believed is the meaning of life, including Plato and Socrates, and comparing these ideas to those held by Christians and Buddhists.

French:

On Holiday - learning key vocabulary and phrases connected to where you may be going on holiday (including country names), what you may be doing and how long you may be staying for.

RSHE:

We will be looking at caring friendships and feelings associated with different friendships, as well as online safety.

Physical Education:

We will be focusing in on social skills by negotiating, collaborating and giving and receiving feedback to actions and decisions made in various sports. This will be achieved through learning fundamental movement skills, including dynamic balancing (on a line), and counter balancing (with a partner).

Key Vocabulary

Vocabulary	Meaning
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide are of trees by cutting them down (felling)
Logging	The activity of felling trees, as well as cutting and preparing the timber
Cattle ranching	An area of land used to raise livestock (cows, sheep etc)
Ecosystem	A biological community of interacting organisms (animals, insects, birds, bacteria) and their physical environment
Indigenous people	People who originated naturally from a particular place. These people may have had no contact with the outside, modern world.
Edo	A member of the people inhabiting the district of Benin in Nigeria
Ogiso	An Edo word meaning King of the Sky
Oba	A local chief in Nigeria



Optional Activities:

At Avenue Junior School, we do not set any formal homework. We believe that it's important for children to relax and refresh when at home. We do however ask that children read and practise their times tables regularly.

- Find out about your family tree and who your ancestors were.
- Find an ancient Benin artefact and create a unique piece of artwork inspired by it.
- How has Benin changed? Paint or draw two images showing an aspect of life in ancient and modern Benin. Write at least one paragraph explaining the changes.
- Compare the style of masks produced in Benin with masks from another culture. Draw a typical mask from each culture and annotate both.
- Research styles of clothing or jewellery worn at the time. Choose one and create a labelled diagram and make a miniature version.
- Make a model of a mask in the style of a Benin craftsman or a model of a Benin building/artefact.
- Make an instrument using natural materials and compose a piece of music inspired by Benin.

Class Dojo:

We love to see the work children and families have been doing at home.

Please do upload pictures via Class Dojo and we will make sure that these are celebrated in class and rewarded with team points or certificates.

Likewise if children have any notable achievements or events outside of school (swimming medals, football tournaments etc), we love to hear about these too!

Volunteering in School

With the school environment now unrestricted by Covid guidance and legislation, we are looking to have lots of volunteers within school to help support and enhance our learning. This could be as a regular slot to help with spelling, reading or maths. Or it might be that you have a particular occupation/skill that you think would be interesting or relevant to our learning.

Please do get in contact with your child's teacher if you're interested in volunteering.