Year 5 – Autumn 1:

How do people, animals, and plants survive and thrive in the rainforest?

This half term's topic focuses on the world's rainforests and their importance to the planet. We are going to explore the Earth's climate zones and the impact this has on tropical rainforests.

Our journey through the book, Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo, will take us into the depths of the rainforests of Indonesia. The story is about a family that decide to sail across the world after Michael's parents were made redundant. The novel has themes of resilience, aspiration and respect for others and creates beautiful discussion points within the classroom.

Through the topic, we will look at the key factors of deforestation and the effect upon the flora and fauna of the forests. There will be lots of chances to research and ask questions through the topic.

There will be an opportunity to safely explore the use of AI to help create their own rainforest animals using their knowledge of the various adaptations living things make to live in these extraordinary parts of the world.

What we're reading and writing:





- An informal letter from the view of Michael in Kensuke's Kingdom.
- Factional – creating our own rainforest animals.
- A missing chapter focusing on setting and character description.

Important places: Amazon Rainforest, Indonesia.

Humanities: History, Geography, Art, Modern Foreign Languages, RE, Music, RSHE.

As **geographers**, we will be exploring our topic question and build our knowledge over time. This will include looking at both human and physical geography which impacts both ourselves and those native to the world's rainforests.

As **artists,** we will explore botanical drawings and use a variety of mediums to create tone, texture and shape. We will be taking inspiration from the jungle scenes painted by Henri Rousseau.

As **philosophers**, in Religion and Worldviews, we will be answering the question 'Is believing in God reasonable?'. This will explore the thinking of different philosophers about the existence of God in different religions as well as looking at the Humanist point of view too.

In **PSHE,** our focus is on friendships and exploring what friendship means to a person. We will cover what it means to navigate tricky friendships and some the issues that can arise.

As **musicians,** the pupils will be relating their topic on rainforests by learning about Brazilian Samba. They will learn various body percussion patterns from a Batacuda groove and transfer this to bucket drums and various classroom percussion instruments. They will research and explore what is Samba and learn the names of various Samba instruments.

As **linguists,** we will be learning how to talk about pets in French and learning some animal names.

Humanities Vocabulary	Definition
continent	Any of the world's main continuous expanses of land (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica).
deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
ecosystem	This means a biological community of living things which interact with each other (animals, plants, bacteria).
Indigenous people	People who originated from a particular place.
Fairtrade	An arrangement to help those living and working in third-world countries to be paid fairly for their work.

Avenue Junior School is a School of Sanctuary and provides refuge to those who may have been displaced for a variety of reasons.

Our rainforest topic will feature discussions of displacement that deforestation has caused and the effect on the indigenous people of rainforests across the world.

Norfolk Schools Of Sanctuary

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As **computer scientists,** we explore what a system is and how this affects day-to-day life in the 21st century. There will be links made to computing in PSHE looking at how we can be safe online when using social media and looking at relationships.

As **scientists**, we will be exploring the topic of 'living things and their habitats'. This will include finding out about the process of pollination in plants and the role of the different parts of a flower. We will also look at the life cycles of different organisms and will include looking at a variety of adaptations that allow certain plants to thrive in their environment.

Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics (STEM): Computing, Design Technology, Math, PE, Science.

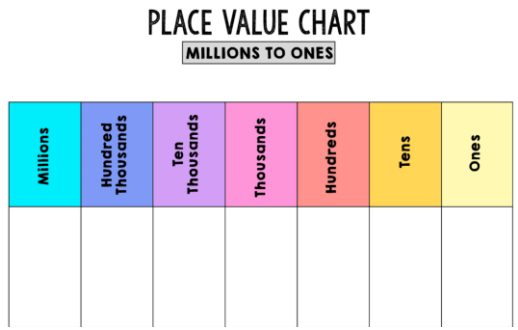
As **mathematicians**, we will be recapping previous knowledge of ordering and comparing numbers and building on learning so that pupils are confident to do this up to 1,000,000. Our lessons will be practical where possible and make links to real-life.

We will explore written methods for both addition and subtraction through a mixture of problem-solving activities. We know that in Year 4 the year group practiced their times tables a lot and it is vital they continue practicing to help build on previous learning.

As **sportspeople,** we will be learning to effectively work with others to be the best team possible. This is especially important with some of the pupils not knowing each other particularly well yet. This will closely link to our school values and our work in the classroom.

In lessons, we will be practicing both fine motor skills (for example, catching) and gross motor skills (for example, running, throwing).

STEM Vocabulary	Definition
digit	An individual number – 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.
place value	How much each digit is worth depending on the column it is in (see image below).
greater than	When a number is larger than another. For example, 23 is greater than 12.
less than	When a number is smaller than another. For example, 4 is less than 9.
system	When there is an input, process and an output in which something happens.
subtraction	The process of taking a number away from another.



Optional Activities:

Whilst we do not set any formal homework at Avenue Junior School, we are passionate about reading and therefore ask that your child reads for at least 15 minutes a day. The benefits of this are wide ranging and can be felt in every subject that your child takes part in. Children have access to school library books, and they have books from the classroom too. If you are unsure of which books are suitable for your child or need recommendations, please chat to your child's teacher and we will be happy to help!

It is lovely to do some additional activities at home linked to our work in school and so below we've given a few suggestions of activities you might like to try:

- Make a sculpture of a rainforest – it could be from kitchen roll tubes, paper, card, papier Mache or something else! Can you include some of the wildlife that lives there and the different layers?
- Create a fact file about a particular country that lies on the equator and has a rainforest within it. You could research the animals that live in that forest, the languages that are spoken, sports played, the indigenous people of those areas, the flag and some information about the population. You could present it as a PowerPoint presentation, a video, a booklet or in another way!
- Collect wrappers the products that your home eat over a week. Record in a tally chart how many are part of the fairtrade scheme.
- Write a story or poem that is set in a rainforest. Think about how you can use vocabulary from our lessons. Add illustrations to your piece of work.
- Look up rainforest art and recreate your own version – make sure you share it with the class!

ClassDojo:

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

Please do send us pictures through ClassDojo and we will make sure that these are celebrated in class!

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

Volunteering:

If you have knowledge or skills that could help enhance the learning of the pupils, we would love to hear from you! Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested.