

## Year 5 Curriculum Topics and Class Reading Books

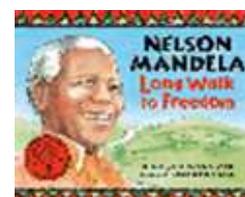


The Autumn term starts with reading Arthur, High King of Britain, by Michael Morpurgo. We explore historical writing, myths and legends. Our topic of Settlement complements this, allowing us to investigate the history, movement and life of Ancient Britons. In geography, we research British settlements from the Saxon period and contrast this with settlements across the world. For the first time, we are able to work in the science lab, taking control of our own experiments in small groups. Along with safe lab working, we explore solids, liquids and gases and how water changes between these states.



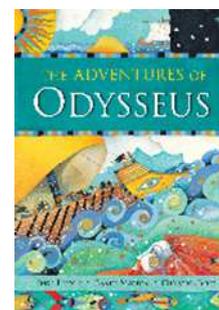
We read two books in the second half of the term. The first, One Giant Leap, by Robert Burleigh, accompanies our half term focus on space. Children conduct practical investigations and scientific inquiry into the scale and order of the solar system; exploring orbits, planets, day and night and the moon's changing appearance. Our second book, Long Walk to Freedom, adapted from Nelson Mandela's autobiography,

encourages children to consider humanity, rights and freedom, and supports our historical research into Britain since 1948. We focus on the space race and our changing view of the Earth as part of the universe.

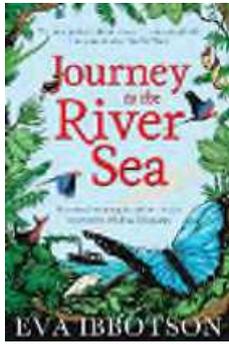


January brings a new focus on the other side of our world as we start our term by reading Moon Bear by Gill Lewis. This book inspires our writing in English where children explore characters and settings from the Shang Dynasty and journeys along the Yellow River. We examine Chinese artefacts and investigate the rapid rise of China as a global superpower in geography. In Science, our investigation of materials continues as we consider changes to states of matter, including several exciting experiments in our science lab. In art, we study Chinese artists and art, building our skills in clay modelling and creating our very own Terracotta Army.

In the term before Easter, we read an adaptation of the Odyssey. Our topic of Greeks includes some excellent debating opportunities, including whether you would rather be a Spartan or an Athenian. Children continue to build their understanding of physics by considering how force, friction and gravity act on objects and the impact pulleys, levers and gears have on forces. We also continue with our study of world religions, focusing on Judaism. Pupils explore the beliefs and practices of Jewish people and find links between these and other religions that they know.



Our Greek topic culminates with an exciting and popular trip to Lowther Activity Centre, which is near Kettering. We use our two-night trip to immerse ourselves in a myth; transforming ourselves into heroes and exploring the elements of setting, beast, quest, companion and magical item. Each part is investigated through large-scale building in the woods, drama or craft and builds up so that we can tell our own myth when we return to school. Our evenings are spent at the Winter Olympic Games and with a campfire to share our favourite songs, stories and, of course, a marshmallow or two!



In the Summer term, we first learn about rivers. We read Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson, which links back to our learning in Year 3 about Brazil. With the Amazon in mind, we make comparisons with other rivers, developing our data and research skills. We study the Thames in detail, looking at both geographical features from source to mouth, and the history life along the river through time. Our glance at rivers around the world complements PSHE work about diversity and also helps us to explore some environmental issues around the world.

Our final half term takes us back to the Vikings with How To Train Your Dragon, by Cressida Cowell. We complete a DT project which includes making structures from bread and explore Viking transport through drawing in art. In computing, we develop research skills, investigating ways to find reliable evidence online and presenting new knowledge in an effective way. Throughout Year 5, pupils continue with our developing music programme, transitioning onto full-sized instruments and gaining confidence when playing in small groups. By the end of the year, they play and sing confidently in small groups and are ready to transition to performing as part of an orchestra.

