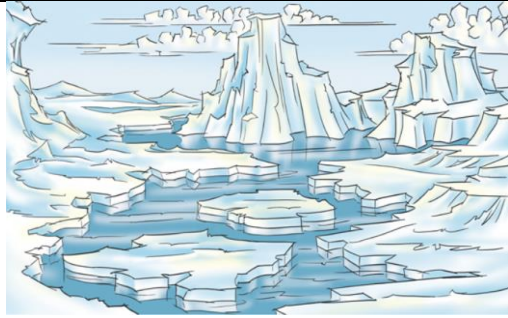




Around the World - Antarctica



In the Spring Term, children will explore a new, slightly colder continent – Antarctica! They will learn about the animals that live there and the people who have explored there, with a focus on Ernest Shackleton and his crew. Through geography, science, literacy, history and art children will develop an understanding of the continent, it's dangers and it's wonders.

Enjoy, Achieve, Believe

Class novel:
Shackleton's Journey by William Grill

Other recommended reads:
Topic books on Antarctica

Literacy:
Having received a letter from Shackleton telling us about his trip to Antarctica, the children will write back, explaining their skills and why they should be allowed to come on the expedition. On Shackleton's return, the children will then take on the role of newspaper reporter and write a newspaper report on the story. Children will also write a descriptive piece of writing about an ice cave.

Starting Point:
Children will start the topic by watching clips from Frozen Planet by David Attenborough.

Geography:
The class will study the continent of Antarctica and the conditions there and will explore the differences between this and other continents.

History: Children will learn about the story of Ernest Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica, engaging with the story through drama and role play, literacy, videos and photos.

Computing:
Children will use Kodu to create their own icescape racing game.

Children will also work on Microsoft Word skills throughout the term.

Finishing Point:
Parent visit – see 'Experiences' box.

Science:
Children will consolidate their previous learning about food chains by looking at the food chains present in Antarctica. They will explore how certain animals are adapted to their environments.

Children will also do a science topic on electricity studying how electricity works, considering a life without electricity, learning about circuits and using this knowledge to make their own circuits and to design and make torches.

Music:
Learning and recording music

Experiences:
Visit from a parent who lived in Antarctica for two and a half years. Children will have the opportunity to look at photos, try on clothing, learn about the food that Antarctic explorers would eat and hear and ask questions about the continent.

Art:
Seascape art in pastel based on the artwork in Shackleton's Journey.
Exploded penguin art – fine motor skills, cutting and sticking.

RE:
Children will take part in an enquiry answering the question 'How do people show commitment to their religion?' with a focus on Sikhism, Judaism and Christianity.

DT: Designing and making torches. Children will design, make and evaluate their torches – link with science.