



# Location, location, location

## As language specialists, we will...

...come to realise that all stories are inextricably linked to a sense of place. We can often focus on the characters in a story but forget that the setting is just as important. Simba belongs in the African savannah, Aladdin in the heat of Arabia, and the wicked witch seems all the more wicked for the spooky woods where she likes to hide out. We will also learn to map the movements of characters starting by following the wanderings of a very cunning cat in *Six Dinners Sid*. We will then set sail on a voyage around the world with *Captain Teechum* as he discovers the seven continents and five oceans of the world. As we focus on Japan, we will study the serene art of Haiku poetry. We will also learn from traditional Japanese stories such as *Wabi Sabi* an award-winning book which uses cunning language to instil a unique sense of calm.

## As geographers we will be

Reminding ourselves of the home nations of the United Kingdom. We will learn their locations, capital cities and flags before moving onto bigger things. That's right, the seven continents and the five oceans! Finally, we will take an in-depth study of Japan. This will help to guide us through all the human and physical geography that help us understand a place. And of course, we will be creating maps as we go along.

*KS1 'understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the geography of a non-European country'*

## As historians we will

be learning about the history of Japanese culture. We will learn about the ancient Samurai ways of life and compare them to the legends of King Arthur that we studied before Christmas. This will give us the opportunity to ask historically valid questions. We will also become sophisticated historians by learning how to compare two similar cultures from a different setting.

## As scientists we will

be looking into the life cycles of different animals and considering what it means to be alive. We will also be learning about the diets of different animals and will be looking at food chains. This will link nicely with our geography topic by coming to understand the range of habitats that animals live in. We will also consider how animals are adapted to survive in their natural environment.

*KS1: 'notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults... describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival; describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.'*

## The Big Idea...

*'Home is not a place, but a feeling.'*

Through our curriculum this half term, we will be considering what makes a place feel like home. Whether it is the hustle and bustle of a big city or the peace and quiet of a springtime meadow, different people call different places home. We will learn about the things that make the United Kingdom a special place to live before travelling around the world to learn about Japan. A magical place that seems so different to ours but is the place that over 125 million people call home.

## As mathematicians we will

Work with money, combining coins to make different and equal amounts, as well as using our addition and subtraction skills to work out how to pay and give change. We will build on arithmetic strategies and gain further experience of column addition and subtraction. We will also investigate the properties of 2D/3D shapes; fractions (finding  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a length, shapes, objects and quantities) and being able to write simple fractions of numbers and recognise equivalents.

## Across the curriculum

**As athletes we will** be improving our speed, strength and co-ordination as we work with Miss Phillips on a skills circuit. Outdoor games will see us building running stamina and inventing team games.

**As musicians we will** be listening to traditional Japanese folk music as we let the calmness wash over us. We will learn how the tempo of the music is based around breathing patterns.

**As expressive artists we will** be focusing on the work of Hokusai and his *Thirty-six views of Mt Fuji*. With a little help from a few willing adults around school, we will create our own thirty-six views of Mt Fuji for display. We will also learn the secrets of origami to create our own mini paper sculptures.

**As computer specialists we will** be logging on to the computers and learning how to create and format a document in Word. We will use these skills to put together fact files as part of our Geography work.

**In RE and PSHE** we will learn

## Knowledge of the World

Learning the names of the continents is more than just a memory exercise. We will learn a range of facts about each continent as we go along so that what we learn becomes deeply embedded.

## Citizenship

What must it be like to be a citizen of Japan? How would that compare with living in the UK? What would be similar and what would be different? What would you prefer?

## Ambitious thinking

Empathising with other living things is an important step in learning to care and understand. We will be seeing life through the eyes of other animals and broadening our thoughts and feelings.