

Curriculum newsletter 2: Geography and History at West Rise Junior School

At West Rise Junior School we have a creative curriculum approach to Geography and History; this means that it is taught as part of a topic linked to other subjects.

We focus on experiential learning wherever possible and value our local area as a resource for making this subject as hands on as possible. A key part of this is using our Marsh where ever possible - a site which was once part of the second largest Bronze Age settlement in Europe. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions and wherever possible and involve the children in 'real' activities, for example map skills on the Marsh, research of a local environmental problem or teaching craft skills using traditional techniques from the era.

In Key Stage 2 History, children are required to study British history from the Bronze Age through to 1066 and then one theme in British history after 1066 - for this we have chosen to explore World War 2. As a comparison we also study the achievements of the three other early civilizations - Ancient Greece, Ancient Egypt and the Mayan civilization.

Meanwhile, Geography in Key Stage 2 focuses on map, atlas and compass skills as well as developing an understanding of rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, the water cycle and the our use of natural resources including energy.

Here's a brief overview of the Topics each Year Group will cover this year:

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 3	Stone to Iron Age	Stone to Iron Age	Romans in Britain	Romans in Britain	Who lives here? (study our local area)	Who lives here? (Name and locate areas of UK)
Year 4	Bright Sparks (Energy)	Saxons & Vikings	1066	After 1066	Nurturing Nature (Map work)	Naughty Nature (Volcanoes & Earthquakes)
Year 5	Mayan civilization	Mayan civilization	Ancient Greece	Ancient Greece	Rainforest & Marsh	Rainforest & Marsh
Year 6	World War 2	World War 2	Storms and Shipwrecks	Storms and Shipwrecks	Storms and Shipwrecks	Ancient Egypt

If you would like more details on the History or Geography at West Rise Junior School please come in and speak to Andy McKechnie, our Humanities leader.