



5th February, 2016

Year 6 topic introduction – History AD 900

Dear Parents,

Following the Chinese New Year break, Year 6 will begin their new Topic unit; History AD 900. These lessons will be linked to a theme which focuses on non-European civilisations.

This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn – the learning goals – in three different areas:

1. The subjects of the curriculum. The learning goals for each of these subjects are at least as challenging as anything taught in the curriculum in your child's own country. In many cases, the learning goals are more challenging.
2. Personal development – the characteristics which will help children become more responsible, independent learners.
3. International understanding – which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects.

During this unit we will be focusing on History, Art, Music and International.

In History, we'll be finding out:

- About the Maya from the buildings and artefacts they left behind
- How the Maya worshipped their gods
- How the Maya used glyphs for writing and counting
- Why the Maya empire declined
- What Benin City in West Africa might have looked like
- How to use different sources to find out about the Kingdom of Benin



- How the Edo/Benin people celebrate and worship
- What happened to the Kingdom of Benin
- Why the prophet Mohammad was so important to the Islamic civilisation
- About the achievements and inventions of the Golden Age of Islam
- Why the Islamic empire declined

In Art, we'll be finding out:

- How to make West African masquerade masks and costumes
- How to create Islamic art

In Music, we'll be finding out:

- How to plan and perform our own West African masquerade

In International, we'll be finding out:

- About the culture and traditions of modern day Maya and Muslims

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest is most important.



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By the end of the unit, we hope your child has achieved all of the learning targets. We hope they have had an enjoyable time in the classroom. And we hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments or questions about your child's learning, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

The Year 6 Team