Learning Planner

Year 6 – Topic 4
What is the Amazon like?

Get ready for an exciting journey into the heart of the Amazon Rainforest! We'll discover if we live anywhere near this amazing place and find out why it's so important to people all over the world—even us! We'll zoom in on Manaus, a busy city deep in the rainforest, and compare its hot, steamy weather to the cooler days in Stoke-on-Trent. What's it like to live there? How is life different from ours? As we explore, we'll uncover how the Amazon is changing and, most importantly, what we can do to help protect one of the most incredible places on Earth.

Connect & Wonder

- As we head deep into the Crescent Forest, we'll connect with our Love of Reading text, The Explorer, by learning real-life survival skills, cooking over a fire, and building our own shelters—just like the characters in the story.
- In Week 2 of our topic, we'll take part in an exciting VR experience day, giving us the chance to virtually explore the sights and sounds of the Amazon Rainforest without leaving school!

Love of Reading

The Explorer
By Katherine Rundell

The Explorer is an exciting adventure story about four children—Fred, Con, Lila, and Max—who crash-land in the middle of the Amazon Rainforest. With no adults around, they have to learn how to survive on their own. As they explore the jungle, they face danger, discover amazing animals and plants, and uncover a secret about a mysterious explorer who once lived there.

The author, Katherine Rundell, describes the rainforest so well that you can imagine being right there with the characters. The story is full of action, mystery, and teamwork. It also makes you think about how important it is to protect nature.

If you enjoy adventure stories and learning about different places, you'll love this book! It's a great mix of fun, challenge, and discovery.

Investigate & Construct

Geography: We are in for an exciting journey into the dense Amazon Rainforest. We will compare our local forest to others in the UK and the Amazon Rainforest. Using mapping skills, we'll take part in fieldwork in Crescent's forest and complete a case study of Manaus.

Science: Our Science lessons will continue to be hands on exploring electricity. We will be learning about electrical symbols, drawing circuits and experimenting with components to see how they work in different ways.

RE: We will explore how faith can support people during difficult times and reflect on how beliefs offer comfort.

PSHE: This unit focuses on how we grow and change—looking at independence and how friendships develop over time.

PE: In our PE sessions, we will be focusing on building skills in cricket, swimming, whilst also preparing to shine in our final Sports Day at Primary school.

DT: During our DT sessions, we will explore the question 'How do seasons affect the production of cultural dishes?'

Express & Reflect

To celebrate the end of our rainforest topic, Year 6 will create a Giant Floor Map Adventure. Pupils will design a large map of the Amazon with zones for climate, biodiversity, cities, and environmental threats. Each area will include:

- QR codes linking to pupil work
- Fact cards
- Mini activities for visitors to try

Pupils will act as tour guides, sharing what they've learned and helping others explore the Amazon in an exciting and creative way.

Key Vocabulary

- Amazon
- Rainforest
- Manaus
- Climate
- Latitude
- Tropic of Capricorn
- Tropic of Cancer
- Urban
- Land-use
- Settlement
- Biodiversity
- Conservation
- 8-point compass
- Forest floor
- Understory
- Emergent
- Canopy