Year 4 – Topic 4

Rivers and the Water Cycle

Why are rivers important to us?

Learning Planner

In our next Geography unit, we'll be setting off to explore some of the most amazing rivers on Earth. We'll begin right on our doorstep with a visit to the River Blithe, then journey on to Milldale to investigate how a real river changes as it travels through the landscape. After that, we'll zoom out to discover some of the world's most famous rivers and the places around them. Along the way, we'll sharpen our map skills, make brilliant sketches, and show off our discoveries in our creative topic books. It's going to be a fantastic mix of exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning!

Connect & Wonder

We will be travelling down the road to the most local river to us – the River Blithe and also moving on to Milldale where we will conduct measurements of the water level as we travel down the river. We will be sketching the flow of the river at three separate points. This will then allow us to track the source of the river on maps when we get back into the classroom.

For the Love of Reading

This half term, we're diving into the wacky world of *Gangsta Granny*! This hilarious and heart-warming adventure by David Walliams is guaranteed to have us laughing out loud. As we follow Ben and his not-so-ordinary Granny on their daring mission to steal the Crown Jewels, we'll also be exploring some of London's most famous landmarks. And the best part? We'll get to see many of these iconic places in real life when we visit London during this unit! Get ready for mystery, mischief, and a whole lot of fun.

Investigate & Construct

- **Geography:** In the classroom, we will be learning about the rivers of the UK (such as the River Trent and the River Severn). Looking outwards, we will be exploring the River Nile (in a geographical context), the Amazon River, the Mississippi River and the Yangtze.
- **DT:** Our DT this time links to Science, as we will be using our knowledge of electrical circuits to create a product that uses electricity to light it up.
- **Science:** We will be completing our work on electrical circuits where we will learn about the electrical symbols and we will be diagnosing issues in circuits, amongst other things.
- **PSHE:** We will be exploring positive and negative influences and online safety.
- **RE:** We will be exploring significant life events, both religious and non-religious.

Express & Reflect

The children will use a range of resources to show their interpretation of the water cycle and rivers. Let's get creative!

Key Vocabulary

River
River bed
Meander
Flow
Grid reference
Locality
Sediment