

Amazing Animals



Recommended year group: Year 1

Theme focus: Art

Suggested term: Summer

Theme introduction:

Amazing Animals is a theme that is focused on learning about the amazing animals that live in the world. Learning in this theme is focused on Art but also includes Geography, PSHE and Science. In Amazing Animals, we look at a range of animals that live in different environments around the world such as the desert, the jungle and urban areas. Pupils will also learn about nocturnal animals. They will investigate how animals have adapted to live in certain environments and how animal and human senses are the same; this will develop into investigating human senses in further detail. Pupils will look at artwork by Henry Moore and Henri Rousseau to inspire animal-based artwork. The theme ends with pupils understanding how certain animal species have become endangered and what they can do to stop them becoming extinct.

Driving question:

Who do we share the world with?

Suggested Read into Writing unit:

Oi Frog! or *Where the Wild Things Are*

Suggested switched on science unit:

Year 1: Polar places – not the omnivore, herbivore or carnivore element.

Year 1: Who am I?

Suggested switched on computing unit:

We are detectives

Linked reading texts:

The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr

Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson

The Lost Words by Robert McFarlane

Writing outcomes:

Stories with Familiar Settings

Own version of *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* with a different animal

Animal Poems (Patterns and Rhyme)

Poems to be published in Class Anthology

(Include own version of 'I'm walking with my iguana' by Brian Moses about a different animal)

Curriculum coverage:

Geography: Location and maps; the wider world

Art: Evaluating and appreciating; other techniques; drawing; colour; painting

PSHE: Living in the wider world

Science: Animals including humans

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Excite:

Visit a local zoo, to see and discuss a range of animal species. Find out about their needs, habitats and how they are cared for.

Explore:

Explore 1: Continents of the world
Explore 2: Oceans of the world
Explore 3: Animal classification
Explore 4: The human body
Explore 5: City dwellers
Explore 6: Human senses
Explore 7: Testing our senses

Explore 8: Under the sea
Explore 9: Desert animals
Explore 10: Jungle wetlands
Explore 11: Life in the cold
Explore 12: Endangered animals
Wellbeing Explore: Caring for pets

Theme essential vocabulary:

adapt, Africa, amphibian, Antarctica, Arctic Ocean, Asia, Atlantic Ocean, Australia, bear, bird, brain, cold, collaboration, colour, continent, coral reef, desert, destroying, echolocation, endangered, environment, Europe, fish, fox, hare, hearing, heart, Indian Ocean, inspired, investigate, kidney, lung, mammal, mix, monkey, nocturnal, North America, ocean, organ, Pacific Ocean, penguin, predict, reindeer, reptile, senses, sight, smell, snow leopard, South America, Southern Ocean, stomach, strokes, survive, taste, touch, underwater, vulnerable

Theme essential knowledge/concepts

1. The seven continents of the world are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.
2. The five oceans of the world are Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean.
3. The five classification groups of animals are amphibian, bird, fish, mammal and reptile.
4. Humans are classified as mammals.
5. Key features of the human body are the heart, lungs, kidneys, stomach, brain, legs, arms, head, neck and chest.
6. Nocturnal animals are awake at night and sleep during the day.
7. Nocturnal animals have a heightened sense of hearing and smell as their eyesight can be poor in the dark.
8. Some animals use echolocation to find other animals (e.g. bats).
9. There are five human senses: hearing, sight, taste, touch and smell.
10. Both fish and mammals can live under the sea.
11. Animals adapt to survive in their environments (e.g. camels in the desert and penguins in cold environments).
12. Endangered animals need protecting from humans, otherwise certain species will become extinct due to the loss of their habitat.

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Excel:

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

- Explore 1: Continent map
- Explore 3: Animal classification sorting activity
- Explore 7: Reliability of the senses experiment
- Explore 9: Survival suitcase and explanations
- Explore 12: Endangered animal poster

Exhibit:

Year 1 act as animal experts and invite Reception pupils to a 'Meet the Experts' workshop to share their knowledge and expertise and answer their questions. Hold an exhibition to showcase the animal artwork and poetry created (in English) during the theme.

Possible wider experiences:

Visit from a mobile zoo who will come into the school and discuss the different animals that can be found around the world. Some may even be able to bring animals with them.

Flipped learning opportunities:

1. Pupils could research some of their favourite animals. They could look at where they live in the world, what they like to eat and their physical features.
2. Pupils could investigate their own senses. What smells do they like/dislike? What does or does not taste good to them? What sounds are pleasant to the ear?

Family learning suggestion:

Throughout this theme, pupils will learn about wildlife and nature, with a focus on wild animals and different habitats around the world. Produce a fact file about a wild animal of your choice, including information about their appearance, habitat, diet and interesting facts. This could be exhibited at the 'Meet the Experts' workshop.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music:

Mr Mistofflees – Cats

Peter and the Wolf – Prokofiev

Key piece of art:

Jungle paintings by Henri Rousseau (e.g. *Tiger in a Tropical Storm*, also known as *Surprised*)

Key poem:

'Macavity The Mystery Cat' by T.S. Elliot