

Amazing Islands



Recommended year group: Year 5

Theme focus: Geography

Suggested term: Spring

Theme introduction:

Amazing Islands focuses on learning about the world we live in. Geography is the main subject focus of the learning in this theme, but it also includes History, Art, Music and Design Technology. In Amazing Islands, we look at how the world has changed over time, explore how islands are formed and how plate tectonics work, explore different island cultures and significant places and people. We will also consider the impact we have as humans on the world around us, aiming to respond to the 'Driving question': Are humans improving the world?

Driving question:

Are humans improving the world?

Suggested switched on science unit

Circle of life: Pupils design their own artificial island, explaining how the plant and animal species will procreate and survive

Suggested switched on computing unit

We are architects: Pupils design a gallery showing their work on islands around the world

Linked reading texts:

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

Amazing Islands by Sabrina Weiss and Kerry Hyndman

Writing outcomes:

Narrative: Journey Tale – Shipwreck short story (journey tale) based on *Kensuke's Kingdom*
Letter – A letter in response to an environmental activist sharing views e.g David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg

Curriculum coverage

Geography – Location and Maps, Locational Knowledge: The Wider World, Locational Knowledge: Britain, Human Geography, Environment, Similarities and Differences, Direction

Art – Colour, Painting

History – Significant Individuals, Events and Achievements, Chronology

Music – Appreciate and Understand

DT – Design Ideas

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Excite:

Take a virtual field trip (Google Earth) of Islands around the world. Visit the different islands and take a look around. Move on to explore the art, music and food of Islands from around the world. Choose a range of islands with different cultures and draw comparisons.

Explore:

Explore 1 - Island Formation

Explore 2 - Pangea

Explore 3 - The Ring of Fire Volcanic Eruptions

Explore 4 - Tourism

Explore 5 - Features of the UK

Explore 6 - Island Life Comparisons

Explore 7 - Mood and Art

Explore 8 - Mood and Music

Explore 9 - The Galapagos

Explore 10 - Darwin

Explore 11 - Artificial Islands

Explore 12 - Prison Islands

Explore 13 - Climate Change

Explore 14 - Human Impact on Climate Change

Explore 15 - How can Humans Reduce Climate Change

Explore 16 - Are Humans Improving the World

Theme essential vocabulary:

adaption, archipelago, artificial, atmosphere, change, climate, conservation, continent, country, equator, erosion, eruption, evolution, fertile land, greenhouse effect, impact, island, islet, location, mood, resources, tourism, volcano

Theme essential knowledge/concepts

1. Know islands of the world e.g. Cuba, Japan, Greenland, Maldives.
2. Islands are land masses separated from a continent.
3. There are four main ways that islands are formed – volcanic, erosive, plate tectonic and artificial (man-made).
4. The Galapagos island and the special animals that live there are of global conservational significance.
5. Charles Darwin and his colleague Alfred Wallace went to the Galapagos islands (1835) and observed the species and noticed adaptation and evolution.
6. Island communities develop artwork that reflect mood and atmosphere.
7. Mood can be created through different musical styles e.g. jazz, traditional music.
8. We live in a constantly changing world due to climate change e.g. ice caps melting, increased sea levels.
9. Natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions have an impact on physical environments.
10. Human activity has impacted on the world over time and has led to changes on islands across the globe e.g. tourism, climate and industry.
11. Islands have specific uses, such as prison islands, defensive barriers, trading stations and designated conservational areas.
12. Key people in history were kept on islands e.g. Al Capone and Nelson Mandela.
13. The causes of the greenhouses effect (carbon dioxide) is affecting islands of the world via global warming.

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Excel:

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

- Labelled map of Pangaea, highlighting the seven continents of the world
- Annotated UK map to explain the key topographical features of the UK
- Timeline of significant events in the life of Charles Darwin
- Climate threat teaching resources
- Class discussion: Are humans improving the world?

Exhibit:

- Hold a class debate
- Class debate: Are humans improving the world?
- Class debate: Living on an island: the advantages and disadvantages.

Possible wider experiences:

Video call or visit from a University Geography Lecturer - Opportunity for children to ask questions about island formation and physical features

Island themed scavenger hunt: Children follow a map around the school / local community and find clues to complete an island fact file.

Flipped learning opportunities:

1. Research the world's islands. Where are they? What is their position on the globe in terms of longitude and latitude? What might it be like to live on some of the islands? What is the culture like? What food do they eat? What music do they listen to?
2. Research colonies. What are they? How many can you find? Where in the world are they located?
3. Research archipelagos. What is an archipelago? How many can you find? Where in the world are they located? Make comparisons between them.

Family learning opportunity:

Explore the islands of the world and choose one to focus on. Learn more about the physical features and life on the island. Make paper mâché models of the island with a focus on the key landmarks and geographical features. Find out wider information about the island: food, culture, landmarks, language, currency, music etc.

Cultural Awareness

Key piece of music

He's a Pirate - Hans Zimmer & Klaus Badelt

Key piece of art

Moai Sculptures (Easter Island Heads)

Key poem

Invictus by William Ernest Henley