



KS1 Spring 1 & 2 Multi-Cultural Term Mayhem in Mexico



Our topic

For our multi-cultural term, we will be studying the vibrant and fascinating country of Mexico! We will be kick-starting our half term with a 'Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration day where we will be doing lots of Mexican inspired activities like food tasting, dancing and Spanish speaking. We will also be studying the following in each of our foundation subjects...

Spring 1 Coverage

Science	As we transition from the coldest months into the warmer temperatures of Spring, we will be studying the changes in seasons. We will be looking at the weather, animals, plants and differences between months to observe how the world around us alters. We will then be creating some seasonal art work to reflect the changes we have seen.
Geography	This half term, we will be taking a tour of Mexico with Miguel from the Disney film Coco. We will be exploring the Yucatan Peninsula, the home of the Chichen Itza, Mexico City, Cancun, Oaxaca and Chihuahua to see what life is like in Mexico.
Art	In Art, we will be looking at different types of traditional Mexican art including folk art, yarn art (Ojo de Dios) and sugar skulls linked to Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). We will be learning how to weave, draw self portraits and use acrylic paint to create bright, bold colours, perfect for the Day of the Dead festival.
Computing	In Computing, we will be recapping our knowledge of e-safety and will think about the importance of keeping personal information private, especially when using the internet. We will then be moving on to our coding units where we will be predicting the outcomes of given codes.
RE	This half term, we will be studying the religion of Judaism. We will be looking at how Jewish families celebrate Shabbat and the traditions they have. We will also be looking at the story of creation and how it features in the religion.
PE	In PE, we will start the half term by learning to dance the Samba. We will be learning the Samba shimmy, carnival wave, Samba clap and carnival roll. We will then be moving on to gymnastics and will recap our knowledge of balancing, travelling, jumping and rolling.
PSHE	This half term, we will be focusing on healthy eating and hygiene. We will be looking at the different food groups and learning how to make healthy food swaps. We will also be recapping our skills on teeth brushing, hand washing and basic hygiene.
Music	We will be continuing our Music lessons with the wonderful Mr Grainger this half term. We will be looking at the song 'I Wanna Play In A Band' by Joanna Mangona. 'I Wanna Play In A Band' is a rock song written especially for children. In this song, we will learn about singing and playing together in an ensemble. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, we will listen and appraise classic rock songs.

Reading

This half term we will be looking at non-fiction texts to help us learn about our fascinating new topic. We will be looking at different fact files, non-fiction books, posters, travel guides and articles to learn about Mexico's cuisine, culture, animals, landmarks, festivals and fashion. We will also be using snippets from the Disney film Coco to help us understand the traditions of Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead.

We are continuing with our whole class reading rewards each half term for children who read at least 3 times per week. We will be sending reading books and home-school diaries home daily in your child's book bag to encourage regular reading at home. Your child will have the opportunity to change their reading books regularly in class but please note that it is their responsibility to do so if they have finished with a book.

Don't forget that we now offer our library service on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school down in the Infant building.

Times Tables Rockstars

Your child should now have their login for Times Tables Rockstars. Remember to encourage them to practise their times tables with a focus on their 2s, 5s and 10s. We will be setting plenty of challenges on TT Rockstars and might even go head to head against other year groups for the chance to win special prizes in school! Also, look out for our top rockstars on our school newsletter each week. Your child might be mentioned on there!

If you have any issues with your child's TT Rockstar login, please let your class teacher know as soon as possible.

Homework

Children will receive maths homework on a fortnightly basis. Each piece of homework will directly link to the learning they have done in class and will be tailored to meet the needs of your child. Please encourage them to work on this independently at home with minimal support, if needed.

We expect maths homework to be handed in by the date written in your child's book. If it is handed in late, your child may be expected to complete it during their break time in school.

Optional Creative Homework

To add to your child's learning experiences, we would like them to create something at home linked to our new topic, 'Mayhem in Mexico'. This could be in the form of a written task, a piece of art work, a 3D model or an IT based creation such as a PowerPoint, Word document or video.

In each class, there will be a prize for the most creative and impressive homework!

Below are a few ideas for inspiration:

- Make a 3D model of a famous Mexican landmark like the Chichen Itza
- Make a travel guide explaining what it's like to visit Mexico (this could be a video, poster or a leaflet)
- Make your own Mexican flag
- Cook a traditional Mexican dish at home (with an adult)
- Have a cosy movie night and watch Disney's Coco
- Design your own 'Day of the Dead' mask/costume
- Make a factfile about Mexico
- Design your own menu for a Mexican restaurant
- Devise your own map of Mexico with a key
- Make a poster with Spanish phrases that would be useful for a trip to Mexico
- Do some research on the animals who are native to Mexico
- Design your own sombrero/poncho

