

The Magical Zoo



Rationale

The topic began by looking at minibeasts and other creatures and being able to label the different parts of the animals. The children conducted their own minibeasts hunt at Rutland Water; they also looked at different pond creatures. We then moved on to looking at the larger animals and the children have been able to identify the features of these animals. They used iPads to locate different animals around the world to the continents and seas. To finish the topic off the children have been looking at where different foods come from and matching these foods to different animals.

Creativity	Independence	Aspiration
<p>Created their own minibeasts Designed and created their own school bug hotel. Creative writing which included a safari trip adventure story.</p>	<p>The children have applied knowledge gained from researching and experiential learning into a range of writing genres.</p>	<p>To have a greater understanding and knowledge of the animals and minibeasts that live on this planet, where they come from and their habitats and features.</p>
<p>Spark We went to Rutland Water for the day where the children took part in several activities which included a minibeasts hunt, pond dipping and bird watching.</p> 	<p>Learning Celebration The children took part in the 'celebration of learning' event held at school, classroom displays and by sharing their safari stories with children in other classes. The children have also performed the Carnivals of the animals dance to parents.</p> 	
<p>Role Playing/Life Skills/Real Learning During this term the children have been looking at real life maths problems that include time, direction and money which will be skills that the children need throughout their lives. During the science element of this topic the children were able to investigate everyday materials while constructing the new school hotel for bugs.</p>	<p>Community Cohesion</p>  <p>During this topic the children wrote to some local companies asking for some small donation to help build the bug hotel.</p>	

Out of Classroom Opportunities

Throughout this topic the children have engaged in several creative curriculum opportunities. The first visit was to Rutland Water where the children were minibeast hunting, pond dipping and bird watching. We have also had a visit from The Hawk and Owl trust, where the children met scratchy the tawny owl. More recently the children had a visit to The Yorkshire Wildlife Park where they were able to get close to polar bears, lions, tigers and other animals from around the world.



Home Learning Activity

Through home learning the children have been challenged but also encouraged to be as creative as possible. Some of the home learning that the children have engaged with this topic:

- Designing their own minibeast.
- Creating their own minibeast at home.
- Fact files about minibeast that they can share with the class.
- Mini beast hunt in their gardens.
- Favourite animals.

Computing and E-safety

The children have used iPads to research interesting facts about different animals which they were able to locate to the different continents around the world. During this topic the children have also learnt about programming. They have written their own set of instructions that they had to program in and they have also learnt about debugging a program.

Links to discrete subjects: Literacy Maths RE Music MFL PHSE

Maths:

The children have used their computing knowledge to help them with directions. The children have also been developed there one step problems with our safari animals challenges.

Literacy:

Fiction writing; The children have written their own stories using the mini beast models they made at home as one of their characters. They have also retold a story in their own words using 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as the spark for this.

Non-fiction; The children have written letters to local companies and businesses asking for donation to help us build the bug hotel in the school garden.

Science:

The children have investigated different everyday materials and they used their findings to choose the most purposeful materials to build the bug hotel.

The children have also been able to group different animals based on their different features.

Art:

The children have used a range of materials creatively to design and make their own minibeast. The children used a wide range of techniques to develop some paintings, collages and 'The Carnival of the Animals' performance masks.

Design Technology:

The children have designed a purposeful, functional and appealing product which was their own class bug hotel. They also selected from and use a range of tools, equipment, materials and components to help with the making of the bug hotels. When evaluating their product they used their design criteria to evaluate their product.

British Values

The children have gained the understanding that animals are living things and should be treated and cared for like other living things.

Promoting Health and Wellbeing

The children will continue with their weekly PE and performing arts lessons where they are encouraged to participate. The children have performed 'The Carnival of the Animal' dance to their parents.

Steps to success

- 1) Spark – habitat day at Egleton nature reserve.
- 2) Writing letters to local companies asking for donations for the bug hotel.
- 3) Designing and making the bug hotel.
- 4) Writing an adventure story which included their own minibeasts.
- 5) Visit from the East Midlands Hawk and Owl Trust.
- 6) Begin to look at larger animals in a zoo – the features of animals and the different common animals
- 7) Visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park.
- 8) Look at carnivores, herbivores and omnivores within a zoo.

How will the project be evaluated?

The topic has been evaluated by discussions with the children to find out what they have learnt throughout this topic. There is a clear understanding of their knowledge of animals in their English and creative curriculum books.

The children have showcased their learning in the form of dance, understanding how different animals move and incorporating this into a routine.

"The Polar Bear was amazing. It was big and scary."

"Meeting Scratchy the owl was my favourite part of the topic."

"Getting so close to the Wallaby's at the zoo was fun; it jumped next to me and looked at me."

"I caught a small fish at Rutland Water when we went pond dipping."