

Year 3: Active Planet

First half term: volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks, fossils

Second half term: plants and flowers

Key Learning Question: How was our planet formed? How does our planet change now?

Opportunities for First Hand Learning experiences:

Hook – earthquake siren, exploding volcano! (use plastiscine, bicarb, food colouring etc.)

Visit to botanic gardens

Speakers to come in to talk to children about rocks and fossils?

Use big box of rocks/fossils from Sedgwick

Key Texts:

Spring 1: good range of non-fiction books on volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks and fossils

The Pebble in my Pocket

Spring 2: Jack and the Baked Bean Stalk

Mixed up Fairy Tales

Main Theme:

Science/geography – finding out about how our planet was formed (looking at mountains, rocks, volcanoes etc), to consider how our planet is still changing and developing (e.g. plants and growth, erosion)

History – links to Pompeii and Vesuvius

Music:

Singing – find some songs linked to the topic, but also a chance to do other songs

Art Spring 1: fossil art – drawing and sketching fossils, imprints, rubbings, making own fossils (salt dough)

Art Spring 2: study of flowers and plants in art (e.g. sunflowers Van Gough, O’Keefe...), close sketching and still life of flowers and plants

STEM:

Science Spring 1:

Rocks, fossils and soil

Mary Anning – study on scientist

Science investigation – making crystals

Science Spring 2:

Parts of plants, life cycle, water transportation, requirements for growth etc. (NB: opp for explanation text on life cycle of flower)

Design Technology:

Cross section of layers of earth

Making and digging out fossil

Make rock cakes

PHSE:

Debate topic: I can’t make a difference to the future of our planet – do you agree?

Writing Spring 1:

Journey, Quest, Return – adventure stories

Non-chronological texts – on volcanoes and earthquakes

Writing Spring 2:

Poetry – spring poetry (plants and flowers)

Fairy tale writing – based on Jack and the Baked Bean Stalk

Reading:

Immerse children in different genres of text to consider style, content and choice of vocabulary

Maths:

Ideas to link maths to topic:

NRICH:

RE:

PE:

Computing:

Topic celebration (Need to check when will this be)

Afternoon showing off and celebrating children's learning. Have series of activities/stations which parents can go around.

Ideas include:

- Art gallery to show off children's still life flower/plant pictures
- Mad science area with volcano experiments
- Children handing out rock cakes for parents to sample
- Fossil rubbing
- Flower/seed dance
- Poetry reading