

The Polar Express

Rationale: As we approach Christmas, we will be journeying to the traditional homeland of Christmas, and learning more about The Arctic. We will look at various animals who live in this snowy habitat and consider how they have adapted to this harshest of environments.

Links to Prior Learning:

Year 3 and 4: non-fiction genres such as persuasive adverts

Year 1 and 2: fact files

Science builds on Year 1/2 exploration of materials, Year 3/4 experimentation with electrical insulators and conductors and to a lesser extent, links to Year 3/4 work on the water cycle.

Hook:

To design and make a thermal cup holder using their scientific skills.

Outcome:

A Fact File about an Arctic pet.
A creation of an insulating cup holder.

CLA (Core Learning Area)

Science

Use 'working scientifically' skills (predictions, observation over time, controlling variables, taking precise measurements, recording and presenting data, conclusions and acknowledgment of causal relationships) to build on initial Year 4 learnings on changing states of matter (solid, liquid, gas). Use evidence from observation and measurement, together with scientific understanding and language to explore the cause and effect links between temperature and insulators. Use appropriate scientific language and terms to communicate ideas and explain the behaviour of materials, phenomena and processes. Use scientific evidence to support or refute ideas.

Literacy

Read a range of extracts from texts about animals, selecting information and noting technical detail in descriptions and comparisons.
Learn about the structure and features of a non-fiction genre and use this knowledge to make a fact-file about an Arctic animal, adapting language to suit audience and purpose and using presentational devices to guide the reader.
Use a wide range of devices to build cohesion across paragraphs and the whole text and choose an appropriate register to convey expertise.

Design Technology

Use the learning from science lessons about insulators to design a cup holder to keep the liquid inside warm. Choose their own materials which would be most appropriate and most aesthetically pleasing. Use a range of skills to join materials together. Evaluate their design and discuss what went well and what needs to be improved.

Learning Value Focus

Values: Collaboration and co-operation

Skill: contrast and compare, interpret, analyse, justify, ask questions

How Long? 3 weeks	When? Term 2: Weeks 11 - 13
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Continuous Learning: Literacy, Maths, Music, PSHE, French, PE

Visit: N/A

Parental Involvement: Please support your child with their homework activities which will link in with their learning in school. Also, daily reading and practise on Times Table Rockstars.
