Year 5: Autumn Term 2026

Destination South America!

Jewell Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Driving Question:

Why is the Amazon Rainforest important to the world, and should we be doing more to protect it?

Launch:
This half term, children will be get to visit Marwell Zoo where they will experience 'The Tropical House'! They will learn all about the animals and plants that live in this climate and we will visit on Wednesday 30th September - we can't wait!

Overview:
In our new topic, we will be learning about the rainforests of South America and will apply our knowledge to create a presentation on how we can keep them safe. To help us we will explore the geography of South America, understand the importance of protecting the environment and investigate why the ecosystems here are so important.

Geography

Explore the location, climate and features of South America.

Art

Artists study, Henri Rousseau inspired collages.

English

Campaign writing using persuasive language features.

Science

Explore the life cycles of birds, mammals and fish.

Vocabulary:
canopy
climate
conservation
deforestation
ecosystem
emergent
environment
habitat
tropical
understory

Learning conversations to have at home:
Why is the Amazon Rainforest important to the world?
You could learn about the Amazon rainforest's role in reducing CO2 and helping fight climate change. For example you could research some links on BBC bitesize to find some information on this topic, create a poster of rainforest animals, or even and have a discussion about how trees absorb carbon dioxide. To explore ways to help, you could look into using sustainable products, reducing paper waste, or writing a simple pledge to protect rainforests. Link:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwkfrmn

Visit some local areas which are particularly important to protect. Why do you think each area might be important?
Stour nature reserve has a Green Flag award and is home to a broad range of wildlife including otters, kingfishers and freshwater fish.

Topic Home learning:
Create a shoe box model or diagram, depicting the layers of a rainforest. Include the forest floor, understorey, emergent layer and canopy for our year group display.

Due on or before Friday 9th October 2026.



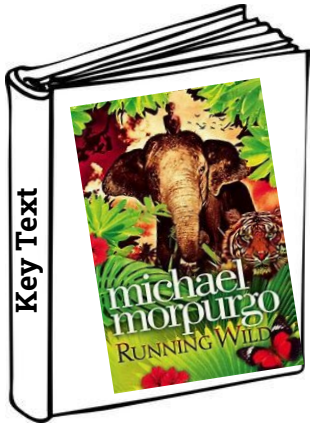
Future Careers:
We will meet an Environmental Officer to find out what their job entails and how their work helps to protect the environment.

Landing:
Children will use their computing skills to present their findings on how to save the rainforest. They will use Google Slides to present their findings to each other.

Reading
This term our key text is 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo. The main character is led on a thrilling adventure through a jungle. This book explore the themes of ecosystems and deforestation.

Who do you think might be running wild?

What do you think characters will see in the jungle?



What animals do you think there will be in the jungle?

Can you relate to the main character (Will) in any way?

English

- ★ Writing to persuade
- ★ Building cohesion across paragraphs
- ★ Use adverbials to convey a sense of certainty.

How can you help at home?

- ➔ Talk to your child about why we use paragraphs. Look at a magazine or newspaper and discuss why the author has grouped certain information. Have a go at these paragraph activities.

Maths

- ★ Understanding place value
- ★ Rounding numbers up and down to 1,000,000
- ★ Roman Numerals to 1000 (M)

How can you help at home?

- ➔ Encourage your child to practise their times tables for 10 mins a day on TTRockstars
- ➔ Ask your child what the rule is for rounding numbers and practise

Science
We are learning about living things and their habitats with a focus on birds, mammals and fish.

Geography
We are learning about the location, climate and features of South America.

Music
We will be learning to play the ukulele using the 'Rockschool Ukulele Method'

PSHE
We are learning how to set personal challenges and how we can achieve our dreams and goals.

Art
We are learning about Henri Rousseau and will create collages inspired by his jungle paintings.

Computing
We are learning how to create persuasive and engaging presentations on Google slides.

Design and Technology
We will continue to consolidate our Design and Technology skills through other curriculum areas.

Physical Education
We are learning about tactics in invasion games and balance in gymnastics.

Spanish
We be recalling key phonic skills in Spanish to begin the year and will start by revising key phrases and sounds.

Religious Education
We are exploring the question, 'How far would a Sikh go for their religion?'

Dates for the diary

Thurs 10th September - Welcome to Year 5 parent meeting
Fri 25th September - Cultural Dress Day/ EDoL
Weds 30th September -Year 5 Trip to Marwell Zoo.
PE and Forest School Day:: Tuesday