

Our Learning: Year 5 Spring 1 2024 - African Countries



At school

Options for home learning

English	Our English learning will centre around Folktales, Myths and Legends from countries across the continent of Africa. During this topic, we will draw comparisons with the Greek myths studied in year 3, as well as 'Just So' stories and creation stories from different cultures. Using one of these stories as inspiration, we will be writing persuasive pieces to give our opinion on the actions of characters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read folktales, myths and legends from different countries and cultures—what similarities and differences can you spot? • Write your own 'Just So' story to explain something in nature—why is water clear? How did trees get leaves?
Maths	In Maths, we are continuing our work on multiplication and division, practising long multiplication and formal methods of short written division. We will then apply our multiplicative knowledge to area and scaling. Towards the end of the half term, we will move on to multiplying whole numbers with decimal numbers in the context of measurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the division facts for all your times tables—up to $144 \div 12 = 12$ • If you go out for a meal, ask to check the bill! Can you divide the total by the number of people present to work out the cost per person?
Science	After we complete our forces topic in the first weeks back, we will begin learning all about Earth and space. We start with a visit from the mobile planetarium, and then focus on how the planets orbit the sun and how the Earth's movement creates day, night and seasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a moon diary where you note down the shape of the moon ever day for a month. What patterns do you notice? • Research a planet in our solar system.
Geography	This half term's geography learning focuses on specific African countries. We will begin by challenging stereotypes of Africa, and then study the geographical features of different regions in the continent, including climate and biomes. New map reading skills this half term will include lines of latitude and longitude.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a fact file about a country in Africa, including information about climate, vegetation, cities, food etc. • Find out the different populations of some African countries and their capital cities.
Other	<p>In French, we will learn vocabulary linked to daily routines and the school day.</p> <p>In Art, linked to our geography topic, we will study the work of Rufus Ogundele and work in oil pastel to create our own pieces inspired by his style. Our 3D art project this year will be African-inspired masks in clay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you come home, tell your grown-up about your day... in French! • Research traditional African masks—can you find examples from a variety of African countries?

Key Dates:

Inset days: Thursday 4th and Friday 5th January

Thursdays: PE and swimming; First swimming lesson 11th Jan

Fridays: Dance—children to come to school in PE kit

Wonder Dome visit: Monday 22nd January

Class assemblies: 5B 24th Jan; 5N 7th Feb; 5A 6th March

Maths homework

Stay in the Green Zone on [Doodle Maths](#).

Practise your times tables and division facts on [TTRS](#)—aim for at least three sessions a week.

Reading and spelling homework

Daily independent reading (at least 15 minutes), or reading with an adult.

Complete a minimum of three entries per week in your Reading Record—hand in Fridays.

Complete the online homework on [Google Classroom](#)—due weekly on Fridays.