Unit: What’s happening now?
Term: Autumn 2
Year: 6
This Unit is built around current affairs. It focuses on a recent natural disaster either in the UK or abroad. Pupils will look at the geographical causes of the disaster and the impact on the landscape and people. The topic begins with pupils being asked to imagine that they are victims of a natural disaster (preferably one currently taking place somewhere in the world) and that they are going to be forced to leave their homes. Tell them that they may have to sleep outside and that they have 10 minutes to decide what they are going to take with them from a selection of items. They will then discuss how they would cope and what they would need to survive a disaster.

In English, they will write explanations of the causes of the disasters and diary entries in which they imagine they have experienced it. They will use their computing skills to research these topics and they will follow the disaster on news websites around the world. Pupils will develop their skills of report writing in English before they begin their consolidation of this work in geography.

As part of their learning and life skills work, they will be asked to consider how aid can be provided to people affected by disasters and to think about how this can offer victims long-term help as well as immediate relief.

In PE they could play invasion games and in art and design, they will explore the work of street artists.

The Unit concludes with them taking part in an evacuation and survival simulation. It is important that they have practised making small-scale shelters using limited resources to enable them to attempt this on a larger scale in the Unit conclusion.
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The topic begins with pupils being asked to imagine how they would cope and what they would need to survive a disaster and concludes with them taking part in an evacuation and survival simulation.

In English, they will write explanations of the causes of the disasters and diary entries in which they imagine they have experienced it. They will use their computing skills to research these topics and they will follow the disaster on news websites around the world.

In design and technology they will design and build shelters using limited resources. As part of their learning and life skills work, they will be asked to consider how aid can be provided to people affected by disasters and to think about how this can offer victims long term help as well as immediate relief. In P.E. they will play invasion games and in art and design they will explore the work of street artists.

Outdoor Learning
The Unit conclusion should take place (at least partially) outdoors

National and International links
By creating a class blog pupils can develop links with other pupils around the world

Links to the world of work
- The study of natural disaster gives an ideal opportunity for pupils to understand the role of charity or aid workers, as well as weather forecasters from local radio or television
- Pupils might also consider the role of representatives for local or regional Tourist Boards or Information Centres

Links to learning and life skills
Showing sensitivity to others
Maths
- Subtraction (written method)
- Algebra
- Multiplication (written methods)
- Division (written methods)
- BODMAS

Languages
- Pupils will learn about weather and compass directions in the context of a message in a bottle from a sailor shipwrecked in the Indian Ocean
- They will learn to greet people and sing some weather songs

Art and Design
- Learn about graffiti and street artists- Banksy and Lady Pink
- Investigate and create graffiti writing
- Create graffiti on a photograph taken by the pupils themselves
- Create stencil images and spray own artwork in the style of the studied artist

Computing
- Pupils will learn to filter searches to find results that happened in a specific time period
- They will learn about what makes a good news program and the roles of each of the participants. They will also learn the different parts of a news story and how events can be reported from different perspectives
- Pupils will gain tips for being a good presenter and learn how to download videos from YouTube, saving them to a shared area

English
- Shakespeare ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’
- Story map, poetry, informal writing
- Talk for Writing 3 week unit Jungle Survival Handbook

Geography
- Close study of a natural disaster either nationally or internationally
- Pupils will look at the geographical causes of the disaster (if appropriate) and in particular, the human impact of these
- They will look at the work of Aid agencies in these disasters and examine the challenges they face due to climate, terrain and combat
- Report

Music
- Song writing project
- Original songs

Art and Design
- What’s happening now?

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### Computing
- Internet
- Cameras
- Microsoft Movie Maker
- Internet
- Green screen or wall covered in lime green backing paper
- Video tutorials (provided)
- Access to YouTube

### Art and Design
- Examples of street art, particularly examples of calligraphy
- Large marker pens with angled nibs
- ‘Names written in graffiti art’ search
- Artist Banksy - search named images
- Cameras
- Stencils, stencil card and cutting tools
- Pencils
- Colour crayons
- Felt pens
- Watercolour paints and small sable-type brushes
- Liquid watercolours or food colouring
- Water spray bottles

### Geography
- Examples of tourist guides
- Non-perishable food items, tent, ground mats, toilet paper, blankets, mosquito nets
- Pupils’ activity pack, radio, stove, cooking equipment, mobile phone, tool kit, water containers & purification
- Warm hats and gloves, matches, alarm clock plus perishable food items
- A first aid kit
- A selection of coats and a tablet computer
- A rucksack to put items in

### English
- Non-fiction books (weather related), magazines (national geographic), information leaflets (environment agency), letter, tourist guide book
- Wild World report activity
- An extract from an information text on a suitable topic that tells them about the phenomenon they have chosen
- Visualiser
- A range of charity posters

### Languages
- Unit PowerPoint
- Message in a bottle – original letter
- Photocopiable letter
- Dictionaries, word banks, class posters of common phrases and weather phrases
- Atlases or access to on-line maps
- A3 paper strips for cartoon strip
- Music ‘La Mer’ by Debussy (CD or Internet)
- Weather images flashcards A4
- Weather text flashcards A4
- Sets of mini weather flashcards and text cards
- Internet access for ‘live’ weather forecast and French weather websites
- Mini whiteboards and pens
- Activity sheet – rhyming words gap-fill
- Vocabulary for weather reports
- Newspaper report about Serge’s liberation

### Music
A variety of pop songs which reflect the world around us from a timeline which spans from the 1950s until the present day (particularly focus on those which have been used for fundraising such as Band Aid)

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