### **BLUE GROUP TOPIC OVERVIEW SPRING 1**

## Overview of unit of learning:

### This term our Topic is Earthquakes & Volcanoes.

Pupils will explore the features & key aspects of Earthquakes and Volcanoes, as well as the formation of volcanoes and how they are distributed around the world. In addition they will find out about movement of tectonic plates, seismic waves and about life in an earthquake zone.

Pupils will have an opportunity to gain an insight into the following areas of study:-

- Map work including statistical data
- Climate
- How the earth is made up.
- The effects of earthquakes and volcanoes on landscape
- Pupils will explore the effects on life of those living in earthquake zones.
- Pupils will conduct an experiment to investigate the flow of lava. They will look at how the viscosity of the lava changes with temperature.

#### **Resources:**

IT National Geographic books Atlas

# **Key Vocabulary:**

Country, climate, environment, population, continental, geography, statistics, natural disaster, landscape, community, richter scale, earth layers, molton rock, lava, narrative, poetry, presentational features, technique, punctuation

Topic	English	Maths
<ul> <li>Pupils will develop their skills in the use of an atlas locating countries and areas affected by these natural disasters, using longitude and latitude in order to make comments about its location within the world.</li> <li>Pupils will also be looking at the effect on landscape, including conservation issues, and thinking about what could be done to help.</li> <li>Pupils will look at the life of people living in Earthquake regions. They will make comparisons with their own life styles.</li> <li>Pupils will study the structure of the Earth. How</li> </ul>	This term pupils will be studying specific areas of literacy developing their skills in using and applying different aspects of the English language.  The work will focus on sentences, grammar, punctuation, comprehension, composition and will include looking at various text types ie persuasive texts, informative texts etc. Pupils will also be working on their stamina for written work by undertaking a BIG WRITING session which will require them to produce a piece of extended writing. In addition, pupils will be developing their reading skills and learning how to read for meaning, retrieve information from text, use	Pupils will be studying the following areas of mathematics this term, undertaking various tasks differentiated to reflect their individual abilities and improve their skills in each area:  Measurement  Number & Place Value  Multiplication & Division
is it made up? What does each part do?  They will also carry out investigations as to why	inference & deduction and identify the main features of a text.	
natural disasters happen.  Students will be improving their knowledge of audience & purpose and the use of	Pupils will have opportunities to read & discuss fiction, non-fiction and classic texts focusing on language	

presentational features, using a variety of methods (such as fact sheet, leaflet & newspaper article) to demonstrate their gained knowledge.  Pupils will be conducting some simple scientific enquiries including how the viscosity of lava changes with temperature.	choices and overall impact, responding analytically and creatively showing understanding of themes and narrative structures within the various text.  Pupils will gain an awareness of audience, learning the effects of figurative language and developing different ways of linking paragraphs using a range of strategies to improve cohesion and coherence eg; choice of connectives, reference back, link phrases.  LA students will be following an adjusted programme, resourced by AH, which focuses on developing written language abilities including a more consistent use of punctuation as well as those elements detailed above.  Whilst HA students will focus on developing more complex language skills and improving their abilities to write with greater expression and demonstrate greater understanding of text. They will produce written responses which demonstrate confidence in a more discursive style.	
ART	PHSE	Science
<ul> <li>Pupils will be looking at the work of Van Gogh, Monet and Matisse, comparing similarities and differences. They will also be involved in the following activities:-</li> <li>Still life drawing in the style of Matisse to encourage the use of light and dark.</li> <li>Observe paintings looking at how Monet uses colour, pattern and light.</li> <li>Investigate perspective, selecting a partial landscape to draw themselves.</li> <li>Create a 3D volcano using their preferred material eg; clay, card etc.</li> <li>Jelly Volcanoes – to further demonstrate volcanic eruptions.</li> </ul> Throughout all these activities pupils will be developing their skills at using pastels, water colours, collage and clay.	This term we will be focusing on Being Healthy. Pupils will be involved in discussions surrounding the effects of smoking and alcohol, both short term and long term.  In addition they will engage in further tasks which look at why it is so important to be healthy and ways in which they can remain so. This will include diet, exercise and the effects on both mind and body.	Pupils will have the opportunity to investigate the movement of tectonic plates, using polystyrene and water.  As part of their topic pupils will also be looking at the layers of Earth, using play dough as a visual aid.  They will learn about the use of Richter Scale and will make their own, as well as simulating the effects of an earthquake tremor through the use of paper and cans on a table.  In addition, pupils will carry out investigations into seismic waves, which will include looking at other types of waves.

R.E/S.M.S.C	ICT	Educational Visits
Social development is a focus at the PRU and this topic will give pupils an opportunity to collaborate as a group, taking part in question & answer sessions which aim to encourage the scenario of "what would you do" in the situation of  Pupils will be encouraged to co-operate and resolve given conflicts, such as the distribution of aid. This will foster self-confidence and allow them to demonstrate learnt knowledge.  Culture  We will be looking at different cultures across earthquake and volcanic regions in the world, developing pupils cultural awareness. They will be able to express their opinions and communicate knowledge in various ways. For example; through artistic forms such as the creation of their own volcanoes, empathy work related to natural disasters.  Pupils will also explore the identity of others and themselves through the study of people living in earthquake and volcanic regions.  Moral  Our topic of Earthquakes and Volcanoes lends itself to investigation, debates and consideration of different viewpoints. For example; when considering the physical elements of such happenings and the role of humans and how ethical our actions are eg; the allocation of aid as a moral issue. Students will explore some of the consequences of mis-management.  Class debates will allow pupils to look at situations from different points of view and develop empathy and appreciate the opinions of others.  Spiritual  As part of the study of earthquakes and volcanoes, pupils will be looking at the population of Brazil and	Pupils will be carrying out various research related to Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Specific websites will be used and staff will oversee pupils research to ensure on line safety.  www.earthquakes.volcanodiscovery.com www.bbc.co.uk/home/science www.sciencelearning.com  They will be afforded the opportunity to use software such as Publisher, Word and Powerpoint in order to create designs, newspaper reports and other documents which will enhance their ability to use & apply presentational features.	It is hoped that pupils will be able to access a visit to Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh where they will be able to experience simulated earthquake and see the effects of a volcanic explosion.

the world around them. It will allow them to reflect on their own beliefs & others, and the impacts a global world has on these.	
Students will be able to reflect and share their experiences through class discussion. Pupils imagination and creativity will be stretched through various activities such as the design of their own village and consideration of need and wants in volcanic regions.	