



Autumn 2 Term – Year 5 Curriculum Overview

This term in Year 5, we are learning about:

English

This half-term, pupils will build on their writing skills through a range of texts and genres. They will start with *Return* which they will use as a stimulus to write a setting description with ambitious vocabulary, emotive language and figurative language before moving on to *Hidden Figures*, which they will use to write a biography in the correct factual style with chronological structure and formal language. Following this, they will then read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, where pupils will write a narrative with dialogue. Pupils will conclude the term with disciplinary writing in History based on the Early British Empire using formal language.

Mathematics

Our unit for this half-term focuses on multiples, factors, prime, square, and cube numbers. Children will identify common factors and practise multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100, and 1000. They will also work with fractions, finding equivalent fractions from unit and non-unit fractions, converting between improper and mixed fractions, and comparing and ordering fractions less than 1.

Science

This half term, children will learn about Materials and that they can be grouped together according to any of their physical properties. They will learn about thermal conductors and insulators, developing an understanding of the term 'conductivity'. During this unit, they will plan for an investigation, considering their variables, accuracy and results. Following this, they will learn about solutions, solvents, substances, before exploring ways of separating mixtures. Finally, they will learn about irreversible and reversible changes.

History

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *The Early British Empire*, where they will further their learning about what an empire is and the role that emperors and monarchs play within these, looking in particular at the origins and growth of the British Empire. They will learn about the significance of trade and explore the term 'colony', before they move on to learn about the Muslim Mughal Empire, and how this linked to the British Empire. During this unit, the children will learn about global trade, global defence and global political power.

Art

Within 'Islamic Art and Architecture' children will learn about the four main components of Islamic design and they will explore the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem as well as the Alhambra and Taj Mahal as places with elements of symmetrical design and calligraphy, geometric and vegetal patterns.

Design and Technology

Our unit for this half-term focuses on Carnival Costumes, and by the end of this unit, children will be to design and construct their own carnival costumes using the Notting Hill Carnival as inspiration. They will research existing carnival costumes, trying to incorporate a visit from someone within the community. They will work to create a mood board, and begin to select materials and fabrics that suit their mood board to design their carnival costume using the materials and colours from their mood boards. They will then

construct their carnival costume following the designs and their mood boards, before evaluating it against their design specification.

Religious Education

Children will explore Christianity through history, learning about the life of Jesus, the origins and spread of Christianity, the roles of Peter, Paul and Constantine, and how the Reformation led to divisions within Christianity.

PSHE

Children will learn about decision dilemmas, learning about bullying, conflict resolution, media influence, social norms, peer pressure and explore decision-making when faced with a risky situation, recognising and discussing what 'risky situations' might be. They will explore personal boundaries and consent understanding what they mean using different scenarios. They will learn about their bodies growing and changing exploring what is meant by puberty, before exploring kind conversations and having empathy for others. During **Anti-Bullying Week 2026** (16–20 November), themed *Break the Silence*, children will learn how to speak up, support others, and promote kindness in their community.

Computing

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *Creating Media* – Video Production. Children will create short videos in groups, learning the skills of capturing, editing, and manipulating video. They will use topic-based language and evaluate their own videos.

Physical Education

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *Swimming*. Children will develop their knowledge of water safety and work towards swimming competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres. They will learn to use a range of strokes effectively, including front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke, and practise safe self-rescue in a variety of water-based situations.

Spanish

Our unit for this half-term is *Mi ciudad*, where children will learn about masculine and feminine forms of definite and indefinite articles. They will read and create sentences about places in their city and engage in conversational dialogue with peers. They will also learn directional vocabulary and how to ask and explain where places are located in the local area.

Music

Children will learn *This Little Babe*, developing their singing and instrumental skills through rounds and three-part canons. They will explore pitch notation, musical texture, composition and improvisation, while building confidence, accuracy and expression in solo and group performances.

Things you can do in your Local Area to support this?

- Visit **the British Library** to discover historic manuscripts, fascinating stories and sound recordings to enrich writing and audio and video production skills.
- Take a trip to **the Royal College of Music Museum** where you can explore unusual historic instruments and discover how sounds are created in different ways.
- Take a visit to **the Grant Museum of Zoology** to discover animal skeletons and preserved specimens to identify similarities and differences between animals and their characteristics.
- Explore **Young V & A** to develop own designs, experiment with materials and consider how products appeal to different audiences.



the Dome of the Rock (691)

Jerusalem

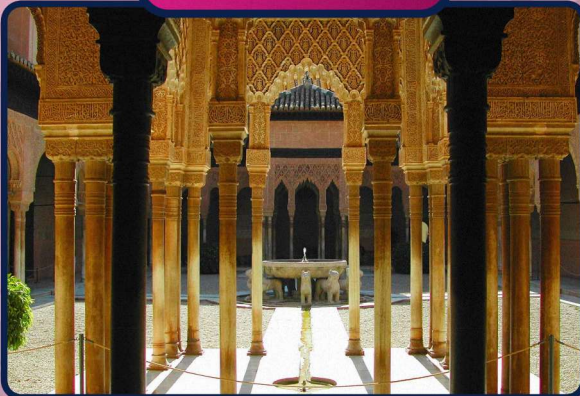


the Taj Mahal (1632)

Agra, India



Court of the Lions



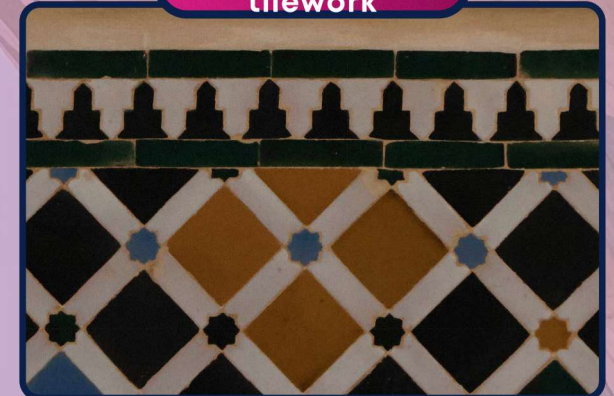
Nasrid Palaces, Alhambra (1300s)

plasterwork



Nasrid Palaces, Alhambra (1300s)

geometric tilework



Nasrid Palaces, Alhambra (1300s)

KEY VOCABULARY

Islamic art/
architecture

art or architecture which **relates to the religion of Islam** or the Islamic world

mosque

a **place of worship** for Muslims

minaret

a thin **tower**, usually part of a mosque, from which a **person calls Muslims to prayer**

dome

the **hollow, upper half of a sphere**, often used in Islamic architecture

calligraphy

decorative **handwriting**

geometric
patterns

a **pattern made out of geometric shapes** such as triangles, squares, circles

vegetal patterns

a pattern made out of **shapes and lines** which represent plants

figural

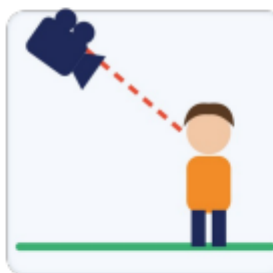
art work showing **humans or animals**



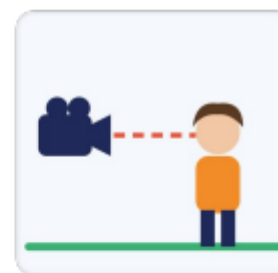
key vocabulary

video	moving pictures with sound, recorded on a device
storyboard	a plan for a video, with pictures and notes for each scene
camera angle	the position of the camera when you are filming
high angle	filming from above, looking down
normal angle	filming at eye level
low angle	filming from below, looking up
pan	moving the camera left or right
tilt	moving the camera up or down
zoom	making things look closer or further away
edit	changing a video after filming, e.g. splitting clips
trim	removing a part from the start or end of a clip
reshoot	filming a scene again to make it better

camera angles



high angle



normal angle

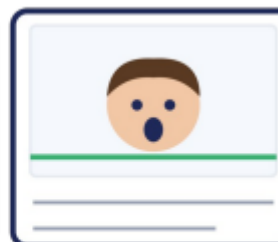


low angle

camera movements

pan
left or righttilt
up or downzoom
closer or further

storyboard: plan each scene





key vocabulary

mood board	a collection of images on a theme to help with designing
designer	a person who plans useful products
client	the person who will buy or use the product
pattern	a guide for cutting out pieces of fabric
seam	a line made by sewing two pieces of fabric together
fastening	something that joins fabric for a while, e.g. a button
pocket	a small piece of fabric, open at the top , sewn onto clothing
applique	decorating fabric by adding cut-out pieces of material
embroidery	using needlework to sew designs on cloth
stencil	a sheet with a shape cut out to make repeated images
authentic	a design that has not been copied from elsewhere
disassemble	to take apart a product to see how it is made



Carnival Costumes

Materials and textiles



making a waistcoat



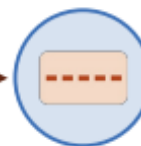
measure
shoulders, waist
and body



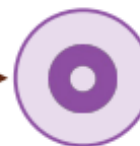
make a **pattern**
template



cut the fabric
pieces



sew the **seams**



add **buttons** and
a **pocket**

carnival



a festival celebrated
around the world, like
Notting Hill

the waistcoat



a **sleeveless** top, first
worn in **Persia** in the
1600s

Vivienne Westwood



a famous **British** fashion
designer

decorating fabric



applique: stitch on cut-out shapes



block printing and **stencilling** for
patterns



add **sequins**, **feathers** and **beads**



blanket stitch makes edges
stronger



key vocabulary



Swimming and Backstroke



Specialist PE: Swimming | In Class PE: Dodgeball

backstroke a stroke on your **back** with **alternate** arms

front crawl a stroke on your **front** with **alternate** arms

stroke a **way** of swimming

flutter kick **small, fast** kicks from the **hips**

streamline a **long, straight** body shape for gliding

tumble turn a **somersault** turn at the wall

stamina being able to keep swimming for **a long time**

technique the **correct way** to do a skill

rotation rolling your body **gently** side to side

recovery when the arm comes **out of the water** and over

length swimming from **one end** of the pool to the **other**

25 metres the distance every child should swim by the end of **Year 6**

backstroke



look **up**, ears in the water



alternate straight arms



small kicks, toes pointed



keep hips **high**

improving my swimming



pace



stamina



technique



practise

in class PE: dodgeball



dodge to stay in



aim **below the shoulders**



catch to get a player out



play **honestly**



KEY VOCABULARY

peak

the **highest point** of a mountain

range

a **group of mountains** connected by high ground

erosion

the process of something being **worn down or destroyed over time**

topography

the **study of the surface of the earth**: topography can look at the shape of the land, hills, mountains, valleys, rivers etc

plate boundary

scientists believe **the earth's crust is split into plates, and where these plates meet** (at a plate boundary) there can be mountain ranges formed

Machu Picchu

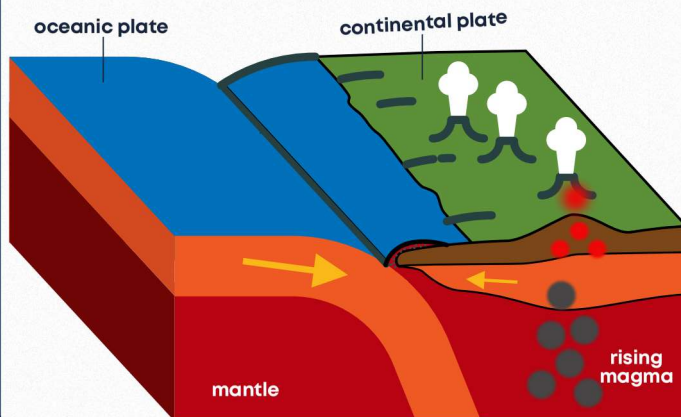
a famous Inca city **built on top of a mountain** in the Andes

Mount
Kilimanjaro

the **tallest mountain in Africa**



mountains formed at a plate boundary



Alps
(Europe)



Rocky Mountains
(North America)



Himalayas
(Asia)



Andes
(South America)



Edmund Hillary

a well-known mountaineer from New Zealand who was one of the first to climb Mount Everest in 1953



Tenzing Norgay

Edmund Hillary's mountaineer guide who also climbed Mount Everest in 1953





John Cabot

an Italian explorer, funded by England, who 'discovered' lands in North America



Sir Walter Raleigh

founded a colony in Virginia



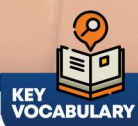
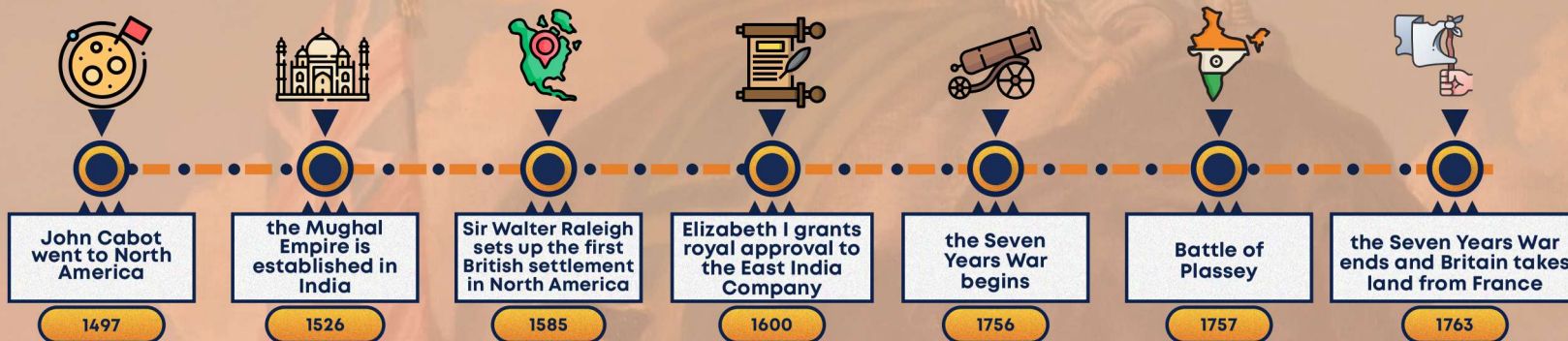
Emperor Jahangir

Mughal Emperor who allowed the East India Company to trade in India



Major-General Robert Clive

a military commander who helped secure an Indian empire for Britain

KEY
VOCABULARY

empire

an empire is a group of **countries ruled over** by a single monarch or ruler

imperial

belonging or **relating to an empire**

trade

buying, selling or **exchanging goods** between people, companies or countries

colony

a country or **area controlled by another country** that is often far away

enslaved person

a person who is considered to be **owned by another person** and has to obey them

merchant

a person **involved in trading** goods



Elizabeth I

Queen of England 1558-1603: she gave royal approval to the East India Company



General Wolfe

he led Britain to victory at the Battle of Quebec



KEY VOCABULARY

carol

canon

part

texture

stave

scale

note

treble clef



choral music

a **Christian song** associated with **Christmas** and often **sung in church**

where a **melody** is played and then **imitated** shortly afterwards by **another part**

a **musical line** which can be played by **one or more players**

where music has **parts layered on top of each other**

a **frame** which we can put dots on to show pitch

when pitch is **ordered to go up and down in steps**

a **dot** on a **stave** which shows a musician what **pitch** to play

a **symbol** which indicates **what pitch the dots represent** on the stave

music written for a **choir** to perform



Image: Alan Engelhardt/Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0)

A choir singing in a church



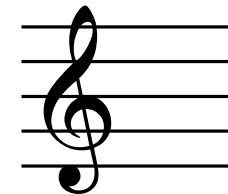
Benjamin
Britten

The composer who
wrote *This Little
Babe*

Image: Knud Peter Petersen (CC BY-SA 4.0)



A harp – a stringed
instrument with
many strings



A treble clef on
a stave



Timeline of Christianity Throughout History



KEY VOCABULARY

Christian

person who believes in and follows Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ

founder of Christianity, born in Bethlehem. Jesus Christ is believed by Christians to be the Son of God

Messiah

a person chosen by God for an important job – for Jews, the Messiah is the King of the Jews, who will be sent to them by God, for Christians, the Messiah is Jesus Christ

Pagan

term first used in the fourth century by early Christians for people in the Roman Empire who worshipped many gods

Catholic

a branch of Christianity that follows the rulings of the Pope

The Pope

the bishop of Rome and head of the Catholic Church

pilgrimage

a journey to a special place for a religious reason

missionary

person sent on a religious mission, especially to promote Christianity in a foreign country

The Reformation

a time in Christian history when different people tried to change (reform) the Catholic Church and fight corruption

The Scientific Revolution

a change in the way people thought in the 17th century, which introduced many of the foundational ideas of modern science

scholarly

valuing knowledge, being aspirational, and feeling prepared

The Renaissance

a time, about 500 years ago, when people in Europe got very excited about learning, art and new ideas – they started to study nature, science, buildings and even the human body in new ways

Key Figures



Paul (Saul)

Paul spread Jesus' message through the Roman Empire (and many of his letters to the Early Church can be found in the New Testament)



Charlemagne

As emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, he spread and strengthened the Christian faith across Europe during the early Middle Ages



Martin Luther

Luther tried to improve Christianity in different ways, including translating the Bible into German so ordinary people could read it



KEY VOCABULARY

physical property

something that **can be observed and measured** for a material, e.g., hardness, shininess, conductivity

mixture

two or more **materials that can be separated**

dissolved

when something **mixes and blends well with a liquid**

solvent

the **liquid that something dissolves in**

solute

the material that **dissolves in the solvent**

saturated

when **no more of a solute can dissolve** in a solvent

reversible change

a change that can be reversed so the **material goes back to how it was**

evaporation

when a **liquid changes state to a gas**

filtering

removing solids from a mixture by passing through paper that only allows liquid through

some properties of materials

hard

soluble

shiny

dense

thermal conductor

transparent

flexible

strong

sieve

filter

evaporate

