

Chawson 1st School

Spring Topic Letter

Year 2

ENGLISH

What?

Innovate the story 'Wanted: The Perfect Pet' with a new Madagascar pet and researching aspects of Madagascar to contribute to a class presentation.

Why?

- To identify powerful vocabulary that describes characters and actions, in order to build up their own vocabulary.
- To use their imagination based on what they have read.
- To identify different types of sentences and use commas in their own writing.
- To apply facts they have learnt over the unit about Madagascar to create a class presentation.

WOW! - Children will be 'hooked' into the 'Perfect Pet' unit by discussing what they would want a pet even more than, e.g. even more than chocolate!

Help at home by:

- Discussing their ideas for the content of their innovated stories.



MATHS

The focus during this topic will be on:

- Length and mass: Read, measure, compare and order measurements of length and mass.
- Fractions - Recognise, find, name and write fractions $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ of :length, a shape, a set of objects or quantity. Write simple fractions e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6 = 3 and recognise the equivalence of $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$.

Help at home by:

- Please help your child continue to learn their times tables at home, using TT Rockstars to help. www.ttrockstars.com and by playing Hit the Button <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>.
- Look at different units of measurement when completing tasks at home e.g. when cooking or baking using weighing scales and measuring jugs or using a tape measure or ruler to measure the length of household objects.



Our topic this term is:

Madagascar



Cross Curricular

What? Madagascar and different habitats

Why? We are learning about a contrasting island country so that the children can understand what different places are like around the world. They will be comparing Madagascar's weather, climate, landscape, plants, animals, culture, jobs, food and transport to the U.K.

WOW! The children will be designing, making and tasting their own Madagascan rice dishes!

PE Information: Children will need to come to school wearing their PE kits on these days. A reminder that children should not wear earrings for PE or should wear earring tape.

2C- Tuesday and Thursday

2MJ - Monday and Thursday

2T- Monday and Tuesday

Homework:

Times tables and spellings will continue to be sent home weekly. Children will also have a homework project to complete on Madagascar- details to follow shortly.

Reading books will continue to be changed every Monday and Thursday.

Upcoming trips and visitors:

We are hoping to visit Lower Smite Farm to complete work on habitats during the first part of the Summer term. Further information will be sent shortly but we are anticipating the cost to be approx. £13.

Important dates:

Online Safety Day: Tuesday 11th February

World Book Day: Thursday 6th March

Red Nose Day: Friday 21st March

Parents' Evening: Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th March

Madagascar Topic Fact Sheet

The flag of Madagascar is white, red and green.



Fossa



Madagascar is an **island** which is a piece of land completely surrounded by water. It is located off the coast of **Africa** after it split from the coast an estimated 160 million years ago. It is the world's fifth largest island.

It is located in the **tropical climate zone** where the weather is usually hot and humid and has a wet season.



Lemur

Madagascar has developed its own ecosystem and extraordinary wildlife. Many of the animals do not exist anywhere else on Earth making them **endemic**. Some of the different animals are now so low in number that they are classed as **endangered**.



Rainforest

A thick, tropical forest with lots of rainfall.

It is formed in four layers.

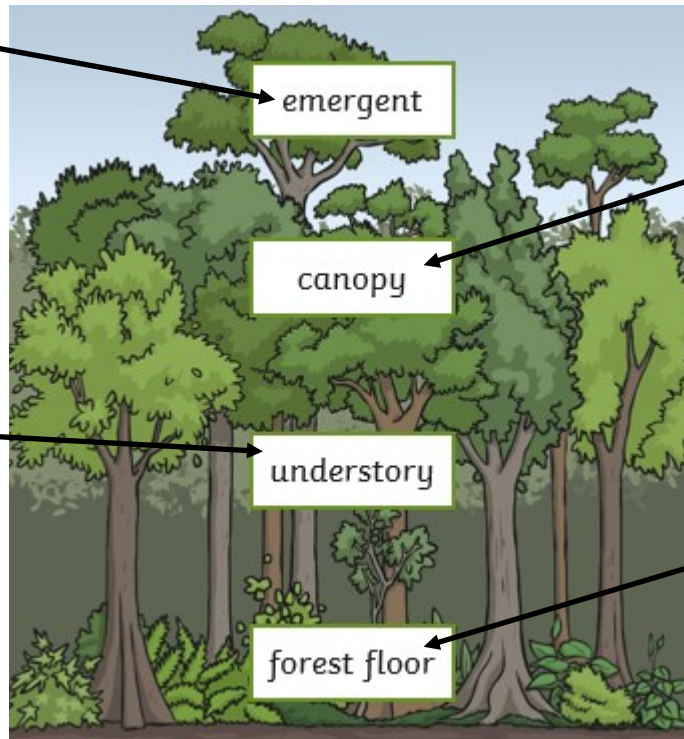
The Emergent layer

The trees grow very tall here where there is lots of sunlight. Eagles, bats and butterflies also live here.

The understory layer

The trees grow up to 24m tall. There is less light here so the trees grow larger leaves.

Chameleons and insects live here.



The Canopy layer

The leaves of the trees here form a roof. They grow to 40m tall.

Lemurs, snakes, insects and tree frogs are found living here.

The Forest Floor

Here it is damp and gloomy. Only ferns and mosses grow here and Fossas can be found roaming on the ground.

Key vocabulary

Endemic - something found in a certain area.

Endangered - seriously at risk of extinction.

Climate zone - an area with similar weather and temperature.

Continent - a continuous expanse of land. There are seven continents in the world.

Extinction - when the last of a species is no longer alive.

People and Food

Madagascar is also home to more than 21 million people. The majority of the population (80%) is poor and depend on what they can farm to survive. They grow and eat foods such as bananas, rice, beans, pepper, vanilla, tomatoes, spinach and coconut.