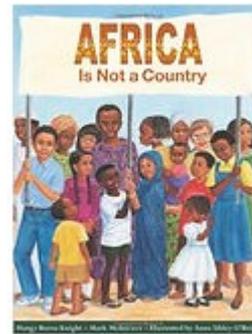
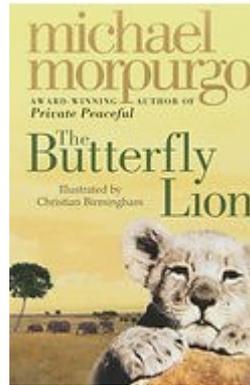
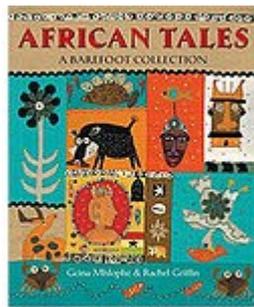
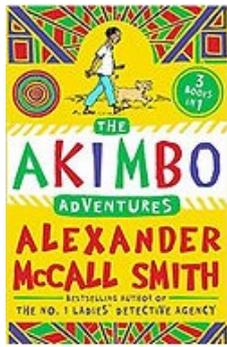


Theme Overview

“Come Fly With Me! Africa” is a thematic unit based around the continent of Africa, with a key focus on geography and history. The children will be learning about the location of Africa and identifying its largest countries. Alongside this geography element, we will study the Early Benin era. We will also learn about African culture, in particular typical African food and folk tales.

Recommended Reading...



Access books online for free through Hampshire School Library Service. Ask your child's teacher for their barcode/login information.

What we should know...

Inside Africa

There are fifty four countries in Africa and the five largest are:- Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Libya and Chad. Benin is located in modern-day Nigeria.

Life in the Kingdom of Benin

Many people lived in villages in the rainforest, where they worked as farmers. They cleared the forest to grow crops and built houses from mud, wood and leaves. There were also potters and blacksmiths who made simple pots, weapons and tools. These people were known as the Benin tribe. They traded goods (rather than money) with merchants from Europe and with other African kingdoms.

How do we know about Benin?

Benin was famous for its arts, which showed animals, people and the gods they worshipped. This artwork teaches us a lot about their lives. Craft workers used ivory, coral, brass (this could only be used in the palace because it was so precious), wood, clay and plant fibres. They made beautiful plaques, masks and statues and often depicted Europeans in their art. Often the Europeans were shown holding guns! Why do you think this is?

Kings of Benin

The Kings of Benin were the Ogisos. When they were exiled for misruling the kingdom, a young man called Eweke became king and began a new dynasty called the Obas. The Obas were very powerful and they owned all the land in Benin and were treated like gods. Under their rule, the Benin Kingdom began to grow bigger and richer.

Timeline

At the start of Benin period (about 900 AD / CE), villages joined together for better security and trading. In the 1100s, there were power struggles and a new ruler from a neighbouring kingdom was brought in by the people to restore peace. In the 1500s, the warrior kings built up vast armies and the empire grew. After the death of the last warrior king, the Benin empire began to shrink. By the 1800s, the Benin empire was struggling, and it fell in 1897 when the British army invaded.



Key Vocabulary you should discuss with your child

Artefacts objects relating to the time period

BC / BCE Before Christ / Before Common Era

Benin an ancient African kingdom, located in modern-day Nigeria

Coral a hard substance made from the bones of small sea creatures

Elected chosen

Exiled sent away

Ivory elephant tusks

Merchants people who buy and sell goods

Misruling to rule badly

Plaque an ornament, usually hung on the wall

Restore bring back

Security safety

Trading exchanging goods

Vast huge

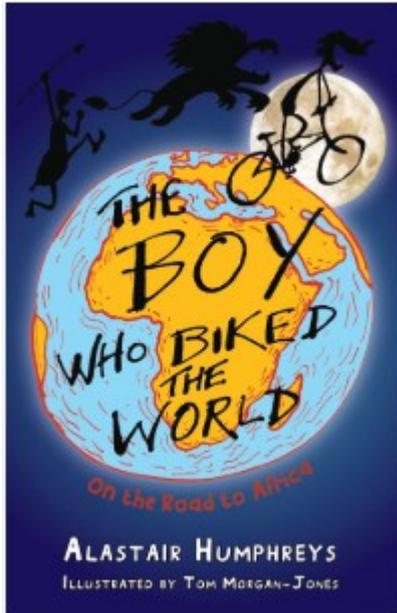
Concept Flow

- To know the location of the continent of Africa and identify its largest countries
- To learn about the Benin Early Period
- To know about some aspects of African culture

Please talk to your children about the information on this sheet. The more children discuss their learning the more likely they are to embed the learning to their memory. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

English

In English this term we will be focusing on descriptive writing, look at adverbials, prepositions, conjunctions and similes. We will be reading *The Boy Who Biked the World* and will be writing a diary entry and an explanation text.

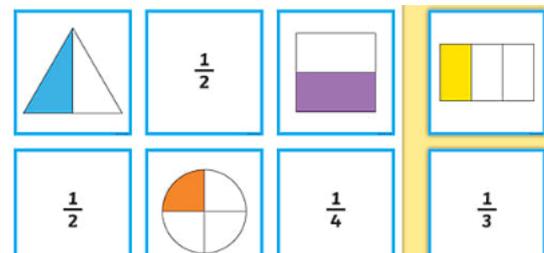


In our Guided Reading sessions we will be learning to retrieve information from the text and infer deeper meaning. Some of the texts we will be using to do this include *The Boy Who Biked the World*.

Maths

In maths we will be learning multiplication and division, with a focus on recapping and embedding our multiples of 2, 5 and 10.

We will then move onto fractions and identifying $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$.



PE

Our PE days are Wednesday and Thursday. With the sports coaches the children will be developing their basketball skills and with class teachers we will be working on our dodgeball skills.



Computing

In computing, the children will be investigating branching databases.

Homework

Due on Friday;
4x reads a week,
spelling practice, short
tasks linked to maths.



Science

This half-term, the children will be investigating the human skeleton and the different types that animals have.

Art/DT

The children will be exploring African food and seasonality during food technology.

Music



We will be investigating the different rhythms used in music and will be taking part in an African Drumming Workshop.

Spanish

This term, the children will continue to advance their skills in Spanish with Mariana

RE

The children will be comparing worship within Christianity and Islam.

PSHE

During PSHE, the children will be exploring the importance of communication.