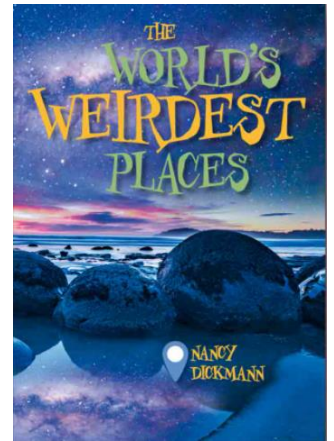


Week beginning 18th January 2021

Suggested reading/ writing activities for children in Y6 based around the new book 'The World's Weirdest Places' on Rising Stars Supernova/ Red+



This information book is a guide to the weirdest places on Earth. It features maps, photographs, fact boxes, descriptions and diagrams of how the weirdest places were formed from natural processes. It explains how heat from under the ground can make strange mud volcanoes and hot springs; how water carves the land into peculiar shapes and can mix with minerals to create crystals as big as a bus and turn trees to stone! Photographs show how wind and ice also play their part in carving out multi-coloured canyons, ice caves and ice balls.

Technical terms are explained in the glossary, and there is an index. In this non-fiction book, children retrieve information from descriptive and explanation text, from fact boxes, and from visuals in the form of photographs, maps and diagrams.

Before reading

- Discuss these key words with children to test understanding before reading or as you read. Remind children they can use the glossary to check words that appear in bold in the text. **uranium (p7), basalt (p8), extremophiles (p11), calcium carbonate, travertine (both p15), atoms (p22), crystallisation (p23), concretion, nucleus (both p29), undulating (p34), magnesium, iron oxides (both p35), allure (p39), vents (p45), transition, designated (p50), evolution (p55)**
- Ask children: Is this a fiction book (a story) or a non-fiction book (containing information)? How can we tell? What common features do most non-fiction books have? Glance through the inside pages and point to the layout of the text, page headings, sub-headings and fact boxes. There are maps, diagrams and captioned photographs, and at the back, a glossary and an index.
- Read the back-cover blurb and Share experiences if you have travelled to any weird places – perhaps on holiday.

Writing tasks

- Get a camera, or a pencil and paper, and go for a walk in your local area. Take or draw a picture of a place that you think looks amazing – it could be in the town or city or even in the park. Write a caption for your picture that explains where the place is and why you think this is a special place to be.
- Design a leaflet that gives tips to help people who want to visit one of the sites in the book. Explain what they might want to take with them, and how they can avoid damaging the place when they visit.
- Write a diary entry as if you are a mountaineer, use pages 20-21 about Mount Kelimutu to help you describe an adventure to visit this volcano. Think about the features of a diary and remember to include how you might feel being able to visit this volcano. Use the fact file page to talk about the climate etc.
- Research other wonderful places in our world (such as the seven wonders of the world) and write a fact file like the ones in the pages of this book to tell me all about this wonderful and weird place. Set it out like they have in this book. You could even include images, drawings, maps and captions. Don't forget to organise the information like how we did in school when writing non-chronological reports.

Suggested Follow-up activities

The following activities will support you child to **retrieve** and **record** information from **non-fiction** and highlight some different features of non-fiction texts.

Scavenger hunt- can your child find these features of a non-fiction text: contents, main text, headings and subheadings, captions, bullet point lists, diagrams, glossary and index pages.

Thanks for all working so hard, if your parents or carers could take a photo and email it to year6@oliprimaryschool.co.uk , we would love to see it!

The year 6 team

Mr Cotton and Miss Gallagher

Weird words

1 Write synonyms for the words that are underlined in the sentences below.

'The landscapes fall into different categories' (page 5) _____

The cave was 'filled with giant translucent crystals' (page 23) _____

'The more rock and debris the water carries, the greater its scouring power.'
(page 34)

'The river's unique red colour comes from a water plant.' (page 51)

2 'Tourists flock to Pamukkale.' (page 17)

What does the word 'flock' tell us about the number of visitors to Pamukkale?

3 Here is some vocabulary taken from the book. Draw a line to join each word to the correct definition on the right.

crystallisation	When a liquid has so much material dissolved in it that no more can dissolve.
petrification	When substances come out of a solution.
saturation	When atoms come together in a regular pattern.
precipitation	When, over millions of years, the remains of living things turn to stone.

4 Look at the words again and identify the root words. Write the root words in the table.

Words	Root word
crystallisation	
petrification	
saturation	
precipitation	

NOW ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ...

- 1 Which layer of the Earth is like a very thick liquid?
- 2 Read pages 10 and 11. How do the local people make the most of the Danakil?
- 3 'They often form when rainwater seeps into the soil.' What does 'seeps' mean in this sentence?
- 4 Why is it 'fortunate' that there are rules in place for hotels and visitors in Pamukkale?
- 5 Read pages 24 and 25. What do you think might happen if the mines opened again?
- 6 Some people have described Caño Cristales as a 'liquid rainbow'. Why is this a good description?
- 7 Reread the information about the water at Pamukkale, Mount Kelimutu, Lake Hillier and Caño Cristales. Which of these would be most suitable for people to swim in, and why?
- 8 Why might the author have used phrases like, 'like a frozen waterfall' (page 16); 'like a bizarre hairdo' (page 33); and 'like an umbrella that has been blown inside out' (page 54)?
- 9 Which location in the book do you think is most at risk of being damaged, and why?
- 10 Which of the places in this book would you most like to visit? Why?

World's weirdest quiz

- 1 Many of the world's weirdest places are 'off the beaten track'. This means they are:

- 2 Read the passage below. Find and copy a word that means 'temptation'.

'Driving on the Racetrack is illegal, but people have broken the rules. They can't resist the allure of speeding across the flat ground.' (page 39)

- 3 Read the sentence below about the Chocolate Hills.

'Many of the hills are on protected land, but some are privately owned.' (page 53)

Why would this fact make conservation of the landscape difficult?

- 4 Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
We live on the thin, outer layer of the Earth called the core.		
The dragon's blood tree has red leaves.		
Rivers can carve out huge canyons in rock.		
The landscape in the Sahara never changes.		
Sedimentary rock is formed when lava cools.		

- 5 Write true statements for those that are false above.
