

VICIOUS VOLCANOES!

A project about Earth Geology
by Class 3

OVERVIEW

THIS PROJECT WAS DRIVEN PRIMARILY THROUGH GEOGRAPHY AND SCIENCE WITH THIS INCLUSION OF ELEMENTS OF ART/DESIGN. INITIALLY THE CHILDREN WERE 'HOOKED' USING DISCOVERY OF A NEW 'ISLAND' IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN (MADE IN MINECRAFT) CALLED MT MIRABILIS SCHOLAE. THE AREAS OF INTEREST WHICH CAME UP FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE THEN USED TO PLAN SUBSEQUENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES. THESE INCLUDED: WHAT ARE VOLCANOES? HOW AND WHY DO VOLCANOES ERUPT? WHERE DO VOLCANOES HAPPEN? WHY ARE THERE NO VOLCANOES IN THE UK? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST ERUPTION EVER? THE CHILDREN THEN WENT ON TO RESEARCH AND CREATE INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON THESE AREAS OF INTEREST. CHILDREN RESEARCHED AND CREATED LEAFLETS AND FACT FILES. THEY HAVE WRITTEN NEWS REPORTS BASED ON RESEARCH ABOUT THE ERUPTION OF MT VESUVIUS IN AD79. IN ORDER TO APPLY THEIR ART/DESIGN SKILLS THE CHILDREN LOOKED AT ART WORK BY MARGRET GODFREY AND CREATED WORK IN HER STYLE, THEY THEN USED COMPUTING SKILLS TO LABEL THE KEY FEATURES OF THE VOLCANO. CHILDREN ALSO CONSTRUCTED 3D MODELS OF A VOLCANO FROM A NET. CHILDREN'S SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING WAS DEVELOPED BY LEARNING ABOUT THE PROPERTIES AND FORMATION OF DIFFERENT ROCKS AND SOILS. THEY ALSO LEARNED ABOUT DIFFERENT STATES OF MATTER. THE CHILDREN HAVE USED MAPS CAREFULLY TO FIND AND LABEL CONTINENTS, OCEANS, TECTONIC PLATES, MOUNTAINS AND VOLCANOES, THE 'RING OF FIRE' AND OTHER GLOBAL FEATURES.



FACILITATOR REFLECTION

THIS HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL PIECE OF LEARNING FOR THE CHILDREN. WE HAVE BUILT ON KNOWLEDGE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SCIENCE AND CHILDREN HAVE DEEPENED UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EARTH. THEY HAVE REALLY ENJOYED RESEARCHING THE LANGUAGE OF VOLCANOES AND AS SUCH PRODUCED SOME EXCELLENT NON-FICTION PIECES. ANOTHER SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT HAS BEEN THE CAROUSELS OF SCIENCE ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE ENGAGED CHILDREN AND ALLOWED THEM TO USE AND APPLY SCIENTIFIC LANGUAGE AND INCREASE THEIR SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE.



PUPIL REFLECTION

- 'I FOUND THE RESEARCH ABOUT VESUVIUS, POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM REALLY INTERESTING.'
- 'I ENJOYED THE WORK ON MARGRET GODFREY'S ART, USING THE TISSUE PAPER TO CREATE THE COLOURFUL SUNSET BACKGROUNDS.'
- 'I REALLY ENJOYED RESEARCHING AND WRITING OUR LEAFLETS. I THINK THAT I LEARNED LOTS ABOUT VOLCANOES.'
- 'THE BEST PART WAS FINDING OUT ALL THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF A VOLCANO AND OF THE EARTH.'