



Year 3- Vocabulary

Autumn 1: Surviving the Sahara	
Vocabulary	Definition
biome	Areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants
hot desert	A desert that is usually hot during the day and freezing at night
cold desert	A desert that has hot summers but freezing winters
coastal desert	deserts found on coasts where the land meets the sea
arid	having little or no rain
latitude	A line that measures distance north or south of the Equator and affects climate
degrees Celsius	A temperature scale
adaptation	A change in a plant or animal's body to suit its location
drought	A period of time with little or no rain and it's too dry to grow crops
precipitation	Any form of water that falls to the ground
climate	The weather we expect
oasis	A green area with water around a natural spring or well
plateau	High flat land where deserts are found
Autumn 1 Science- Animals including Humans	
Vocabulary	Definition
nutrition	The study of food and how it works in your body
protein	Builds, maintains, and replaces the tissues in your body
carbohydrate	A substance that is rich in energy
minerals	Help your body grow and stay healthy
vitamins	Nutrients that help animals grow healthily
Autumn 2: Ancient Egypt	
Vocabulary	Definition
pharaoh	An Egyptian King or Queen
civilisation	A group of people with their own language and way of life
mummification	The process of preserving dead bodies
pyramid	A structure built to house a dead body
hieroglyphics	A writing system where pictures stood for meanings or sounds.
ancient	Very old
sarcophagus	A coffin adorned with a sculpture or inscription containing a mummy
afterlife	The Egyptian belief about life after death
structure	Building or constructing something
shaduf	A hand operated machine used to transport water from a lower level to a higher one
ritual	A ceremony performed in a special way
secondary resources	Created by someone who did not experience something first-hand (books, articles, pictures)
archaeologist	Somebody who looks at ancient sites and objects to learn about the past
tomb	a place where a dead person is buried
Autumn 2 Science: Animals including Humans	
Vocabulary	Definition
skeleton	The bones inside an animal's body
skull	The case of bone that protects the brain
spine	A collection of small bones that is located in the torso
ribcage	A set of bones that protects most of the body's organs
pelvis	A bowl shaped structure that supports the lower spine

femur	The largest bone in the body
calcium	A mineral that builds strong bones
muscle	Tissue within the body that helps move the skeleton
contract	When a muscle is shortened
relax	When a muscle is lengthened
Spring 1: London Our Capital	
Vocabulary	Definition
county	A division of a country
country	The land occupied by a nation
settlement	Places where people live and sometimes work
landmark	An object that can be easily seen in a landscape
transport	All the ways that people move about from one place to another
tourism	The industry of providing services for people on holiday in a place
Underground/Tube	A railway that runs through tunnels beneath London
Government	A group of people who make laws and decisions on behalf of a nation
longitude	Imaginary line running north to south relating to time
flats	A set of rooms for living in, usually on one floor and part of a larger building
residential	Land used for houses
population	A group of people that live in the same area.
motorway	A major road, with three lanes, that has been specially built for fast travel over long distances
Spring 1 Science: Light	
Vocabulary	Definition
Light	A form of energy that enables us to see
darkness	The absence of light
reflect	When light bounces off a surface
shadow	When an object blocks the path of light
light source	An object that gives off light
translucent	Almost see-through
opaque	Something that light cannot travel through
Spring 2: Scavengers and Settlers	
Vocabulary	Definition
hunter-gatherer	People who live mainly by hunting and harvesting wild food
Forage	To search for food
Tribe	A group of families living together
roundhouse	A circular building
tor	A prominent rock or heap of rocks
excavation	To dig into a piece of land
nomadic	Moving from place to place looking for pasture for their animals
Stone Age	a period in prehistory during which early humans started using stones, usually flint, to make tools and weapons
Bronze Age	a time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for making tools and weapons
Iron Age	the name given to the time where iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools.
tools	an object that is used to help perform a specific task
weapons	an object used to harm or kill living creatures
Spring 2 Science: Rocks	
Vocabulary	Definition
igneous	Rocks made when lava has cooled
sedimentary	Rocks formed by layers of sediment
metamorphic	Igneous or sedimentary rocks that are heated and or put under pressure
erosion	When something is worn away
organic matter	Leaves, animals and other natural materials

Summer 1: Fantastic Forests	
Vocabulary	Definition
temperate deciduous biome	An area with a seasonal climate, similar plants and animals
Natural resources	Something that is found in nature and can be used by people
forest	A piece of land with many trees
woods	A thick growth of trees
boreal	The region of the earth just south of the Arctic, especially its plants and animals
tropical	An area with a warm, moist climate
temperate	An area with a changeable climate
broad-leaved	Trees that have wide, flat leaves
conifers	Trees that have needle-like leaves
sustainable	Maintained at a certain level or rate
Summer 1 Science: Plants	
Vocabulary	Definition
nutrients	What is found in food that is essential to life and health
water transportation	The movement of water through a plant
pollination	The transfer of pollen between plants
seed dispersal	How seeds travel and spread
fertilisation	The process of plants making seeds
Summer 2: What did the Romans do for us?	
Vocabulary	Definition
villa	a farmhouse or country house built in the Roman Empire
conquer	To defeat or take control of something
inhabitants	a person or animal that lives in a particular place
legacy	Something that is handed down from one period of time to another
revolt	To fight against government or authority
Celts	Pre-Roman people living in Britain
Vindolanda Tablet	Thin pieces of wood about the size of a postcard, which were used as writing paper for Roman soldiers
emperor	A Roman king or ruler
consequence	Something that happens as a result of actions or conditions
Summer 2 Science: Forces and Magnets	
Vocabulary	Definition
magnet	An object that produces a magnetic field
attract	N and S/ S and N
repel	N and N/ S and S
poles	The two ends of a magnet (North and South)
magnetic	The force of attraction or repulsion between substances made of certain materials
friction	The resistance of movement when one object rubs against another