



School News from Copley Junior School



Learning about History at Copley Junior

At Copley Junior School, we teach all the requirements of the National Curriculum for History through engaging and creative learning projects.



In Year 3, children launch their project on Ancient Greece by having a 'Greek Day', where everyone comes in dressed in their best togas and spends the day researching information about different Greek gods and goddesses.

In Year 4, children spend a day in the life of a Viking - learning to be craftsmen, shaping and decorating their own individual pots, farmers, preparing the land to ensure the crops would grow, they ground the flour for bread-making and collected wood, and they also learned how to be powerful Viking guards. Back at school, children learned about significant Viking historical events, placing these on a timeline in chronological order, they used maps of Europe to locate where the Vikings came from and annotated maps of the UK to show where the Vikings settled. Children researched aspects of Viking life and presented their learning in a variety of ways.



In Year 4 children also learn about the Romans. They launch their project with a Roman Day, led by a Roman Centurion, who teaches the children all about life as a Roman soldier. Children enjoy an exciting day full of activities including a themed presentation and interactive talk, illustrated with a wide range of authentic artefacts, followed with craft and artefact handling activities and an active session practising preparations for a Roman battle. By the end of the day, all children successfully passed their Diploma and became fierce members of the Roman Army! After a busy term of learning, the children invited parents and relatives to their express event. This showcased the children's work, drama and even Roman battle formations, using the wonderful shields made by the children.



In Year 5, children launched their learning about Ancient Egypt with a visit to Weston Park. Year 5 explored the exhibitions in the museum before undertaking the task of mummification. Extracting brains through the nostrils and placing vital organs in Canopic jars were just a few of the tasks to be undertaken. Did you know that the Egyptians used to bury their slaves alive alongside their mummified bodies so that they would have a slave in the afterlife? This didn't last long because the slaves would run away every time someone in the family fell ill. This is why they began making a 'shabti' (a small model of a slave) to be buried alongside their mummified remains. All of the children decided that making a 'shabti' was much kinder than being buried alive!



In Year 6, after a busy term of learning and research, the Copley Museum opened and our highly organised Year 6 tour guides led the adults around the different exhibit spaces. This was an entirely pupil-led initiative, with the children deciding how to organise and present their work. The children had learned an incredible amount about what life was like during World War 2 and it was lovely to see how confident they were to share this with the adults.



If you would like to find out more about our teaching of history, and to see more of the children's fantastic work, please visit our website at;
<http://www.copley.doncaster.sch.uk/learning/curriculum/history>

We look forward to sharing more of our learning soon,

E.A. Crayton,
Head teacher