

Year 1 Topic

# Bright Lights Big City



Hop on board a big, red bus and head for England's capital. Yes, that's right, we're on our way to London!

This half term, we'll take tea with the Queen and visit Buckingham Palace online. Using maps and research, we'll locate Buckingham Palace, understand compass directions, plan routes around London and learn about the countries of the United Kingdom. Our research will take us back in time to the Great Fire of London and to famous London landmarks, as well as giving us an understanding of what it's like to live in a big city. We'll Skype a school in a city far away, write adventure stories, take a virtual trip to London Zoo and make souvenirs for tourists.

At the end of our project, we'll share our skills and knowledge with you. Our class will tell well-known stories about London, make a stop-motion animation and share traditional British nursery rhymes.

## Help your child prepare for their project

Cities are exciting places. Why not visit a local city to spot interesting vehicles, buildings and landmarks? Alternatively, you could search the web for images, information and film clips about London and keep a scrapbook of your findings. You could also visit the local library to see if you can find some colourful books of nursery rhymes to enjoy together.

## What will you choose to do?

- Make a cityscape artwork and take it to school to share with the class.
- Spot and talk about different types of vehicles while you are out and about with your family.
- Create a 2-D city shape picture. Can you label the shape names? What are the properties of the shapes in your picture?
- Search the web with an adult to find images of different cities in the world. Create a scrapbook of your favourite cities and include pictures, labels and captions. Can you find and record a short fact about each city?
- Visit a city near you with an adult. Look out for interesting buildings that are different sizes and shapes. Make a list of the sights, sounds and smells that you discover. You could even draw a simple map of your journey.
- Take your teddy on a visit to a city near you. Write a simple diary entry about your teddy's day out, including what he or she saw and felt. Illustrate teddy's diary.
- Make a mini book of your city visit, showing the transport and buildings you saw. Label the pictures.
- Create and label a picture or map of a fantasy city. What type of buildings would be in your city and what would they look like? What transport would people use in this city?
- Build a real or fantasy city using Lego, blocks or 3-D junk material from home. Play with your city using figures and vehicles.
- Draw a map of a city and direct a toy car or figure using words such as forwards, backwards, straight ahead, left, right, up, down, under and over. You can use numbers too if you like.
- Visit your local library with an adult and search for non-fiction, fiction or poetry books about cities. Read and enjoy them with an adult or your class.
- Create a city song to the tune of *The Wheels on the Bus*. Your song should start with, 'I went to the city, and I saw...'

