

Creative Home Learning Ideas

Hola Mexico!



The final few weeks for your child at Silsden Primary School are upon us! This is a hugely exciting time for all the pupils but we know that can also be a poignant one as they move on from friends, teachers and a community they have known for a long time now. We will mark the end of their experience in several ways and still have lots of great learning to complete!

Our final topic for Summer 2 is called **Hola Mexico!** This short topic explores the ancient Mayan Civilisation and will cover the History and Geography of Mexico and other Central American countries. We also hope to complete artwork inspired by the Mayans and even to make some Mexican food in Design and Technology! Below are some ideas for home learning based around our new topic. Please read the ideas with your child and let them choose which activities they would like to complete at home with you or on their own over the coming weeks. We would like all children to complete one or more of the activities. The work should be handed in on, or in the weeks before, **Wednesday 13th July** (avoiding the hectic final week!).

- Find out about Mexico using information books and the internet and create a fact file. You might like to include Mexico's official name, its capital city, flag, location in the world, form of government, current president, population, geographical features, climate, natural resources, main religion, currency and the official language used by its people.
- Find out more about the ancient Maya civilisation using the internet or information books, then create an information poster about one area of the Maya civilisation that you have found interesting.
- Traditional Mexican food is enjoyed by people across the world. Work with an adult to find and then follow a simple recipe to prepare and cook a Mexican dish to enjoy with your family. You could try guacamole, enchiladas, tacos, fava bean soup or even churros for dessert.
- Mariachi music is a traditional genre of Mexican music. Find examples of mariachi music online to listen to. Cielito Lindo is a well-known mariachi song. Write a short paragraph to evaluate the genre and its distinguishing features, including the instruments played, the volume, pitch and tempo of the music and the mood created.
- Mexican artist, Pedro Linares, created fantastical sculptures of creatures by combining animals in unusual ways, such as a donkey with butterfly wings or a cockerel with horns. He called these sculptures *alebrijes*. They are traditionally made from papier mâché. Draw or sculpt a unique *alebrije* using Mexican wildlife as inspiration.

Useful websites: National Geographic Kids (Mexico), BBC Good Food (Mexican recipes), DKFindout! (Mayans), Britannica (Mariachi).

These activities are intended to be fun and to provide inspiration to build on learning from school. Other ideas are welcome too! Please just ask any of the Year 6 team if you have any queries.