RGS Primary Geography and History TeachMeet

‘Let’s go on a scintillating South American adventure!’

Tuesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March 2021
The challenge

• Thanks to support from the Geographical Association’s Initiatives Fund (GAIF), Adriana Meirelles and myself were able to take 248 upper Key Stage 2 pupils and 20 teachers and teaching assistants from five schools across the Gloucestershire/South Gloucestershire/Bristol area on a scintillating South American adventure on Wednesday 14th October 2020.

• It was originally intended to hold this workshop in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of the West of England (UWE) on the outskirts of the city of Bristol. However, implications posed by Covid-19 meant that we had to be even more creative and contemplate using Zoom to still fulfil our obligations during such very uncertain and unprecedented times.
Let’s go on a scintillating South American adventure!

15TH OCTOBER 2020

Bespoke CPD (Lawrence View Primary School and Nursery, Nottinghamshire)
21ST OCTOBER 2020

Why not pop along (virtually) to our second Primary Humanities Network meeting of this academic year?
17TH OCTOBER 2020

Let’s go on a scintillating South American adventure!
15TH OCTOBER 2020
## What we did

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 am to 9.30 am</td>
<td>Welcome and starter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30 am to 10.45 am</td>
<td>Session 1 (Geography/critical thinking/literacy: Locational and place knowledge; human and physical geography; geographical skills).</td>
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<td>10.45 am to 11.00 am</td>
<td>Break.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 am to 12.15 pm</td>
<td>Session 1 (Geography/critical thinking/literacy: Locational and place knowledge; human and physical geography; geographical skills).</td>
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<td>12.15 pm to 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00 pm to 2.30 pm</td>
<td>Session 2 (Art/D&amp;T: In the heart of the Amazon rainforest).</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30 pm to 3.00 pm</td>
<td>Plenary.</td>
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Integrating activities from the GA’s ‘Critical thinking in practice’ guide and British Council’s Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning (CCGL) training days (‘Critical thinking and problem solving’).
It would have a great, the city would totally healthy, natural trees. There would be a river going down and it would be crystalline with all kinds of fish. A peaceful place to relax and enjoy the scenery and the biscuits. There would be flowers and the bushes. The city would be more green and change with time. There is a huge valley filled with flowers and channels.

Layla

My dream Amazon rainforest would have lots of trees but we never should to be cut down. The things you would probably see are lots of animals like monkeys, frogs, snakes, bugs, and birds. In this Amazon rainforest there will be no desire for people to live in because it is dangerous for the animals. For people to cut down trees and kill the animals. There will be lots of fish and trees for the animals to live instead of them eating each other when they are starving. There will be no snakes just because they kill any other animal or poison them.

One thing that will be a crystal clear water with no rubbish will see the animals won't die.
Our dream Amazon would be:
Our dream Amazon would be a majestic, evergreen wonderland with tall trees.
Our dream Amazon would be populated with unique wildlife all around.
Our dream Amazon would have no deforestation
Our dream Amazon would have clean, clear water flowing peacefully.
Our dream Amazon would have no forests anywhere in the continent.

My dream rainforest

In this rainforest there would be tall, beautiful trees and breath-taking flowers. Another thing in this rainforest would be filled with hundreds of unique animals and habitats.

By: Harper and Morgan

What would our ideal Amazon be?

In the rainforest I would want it to be big and fresh with alive animals and happy tribes people. We would want no pollution or wild fires. I would want alive green plants and trees, also fresh shimmering water where animals can drink. Amazing long rivers and tropical birds flying around with dart frogs hopping high. I want no deforestation destroying the trees. I also want animals roaming every corner of the Amazon.

By: Adam and Madison

Dream Amazon

My dream Amazon would be to have no more killing of the animals and to have all the animals' habitat. I wouldn’t want any litter or plastic to affect the rainforest. I wouldn’t want any trees cut down and no plants cut, as well. I would like to have lots of water feed the animals and to keep them alive. I’ll to plant more plants. I would like the people that live there to be happy.

By: Ada and Freddie

My dream Amazon would have colourful plants, wonderful streams full of different species of fish. A place full of life and adventure. The beautiful land teeming with nature and animals. Towering trees, way up above the green and brown ground.

Waterfalls splashing, spraying all over the place.
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘Children loved doing their ‘thunks’ ….’
• ‘The children have really enjoyed the day ….’
• ‘… thank you for an amazing day.’
• ‘Thank you very much for a very interesting day – we learnt loads!’
• ‘Really enjoyed creating our forest pictures!’
• ‘Our children enjoyed learning about the continents and maps.’
• ‘Thank you so much, we have really enjoyed it ….’
• ‘Such a great day yesterday. The children really enjoyed it and got a lot from it.’
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘Thank you so much for the opportunity for yesterday’s workshop. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event and loved watching the video of the little girl in the rainforest and seeing the photographs of the Amazon and Brazil. I feel the children learnt a lot of information in a short space of time. There is much that we will revisit over the course of this term during our rainforest topic. It was a great opportunity for the children to use Zoom, interact with yourselves and the other schools. A brilliant day! I have attached some photographs and writing that the children did on the day and as follow up today.’

Emma Espley
February 2021
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘Thank you very much for letting us be a part of the day, it was very interesting. The content was amazing. They enjoyed learning about the rainforest and the effect of deforestation on it. It was really nice to do something art related in the afternoon as it gave the children the opportunity to express themselves using organic material.’
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘What a fantastic learning experience for staff and students at our school. The pupils were fully engaged and were able to use such a wide range of skills throughout the day from problem solving to analysing to thinking creatively. The day was a great way of enriching our geography curriculum and bringing core KS2 geographical knowledge and skills to life. A really valuable experience that the children learnt a lot from!’
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘It was a great day, full of things the children had never experienced. The resource booklet was really great and I appreciated having them sent beforehand, as it meant that setting up for the day was a total breeze the night before – teachers always appreciate that! Also, on the day, it meant I could very easily direct the children to whichever activity they were doing and there was zero fussing. ... The afternoon was lovely – seeing Marcella’s videos of her own experience in the Amazon was near magical, ... . I have a lot of positive takeaways from the day, especially the subject content, but the timing of it and having so many others involved made the work aspect a bit of a rush when really the children were loving the subject content and so wanted to spend more time doing it. The children were very enthusiastic about their day – particularly loving the baby monkey in the video and what they learnt. Even this morning they were talking about the environmental impacts of the huge deforestation in the Amazon, so you’ve definitely made a very positive impact there. Thank you very much for the day. Your efforts were most appreciated!’

Emma Espley                                    February 2021
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘Thank you again for running the day, the whole class had a wonderful time and the virtual platform didn’t stop them from engaging fully with the experience.’
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘It was really fun to learn more about South America and the people and children who live there.’
• ‘I know lots more about the Amazon now. We need to do more to help.’
• ‘I loved making my forest spirit. It was fun to learn about life in rainforests too.’
Feedback from staff and pupils

• ‘I enjoyed having a Zoom session with other schools so we could learn together.’
• ‘I liked making the forest spirits because there are lots of different shapes and sizes and you could create anything!’
• ‘I like the opportunity to learn from someone who has had experience of it – not just my teacher!’
Let’s go on a scintillating South American adventure!

Next event: Wednesday 24th March 2021.

https://create2inspire.co.uk/2020/12/03/off-to-south-america-once-again-virtually-of-course/

https://create2inspire.co.uk/2020/12/05/fancy-a-virtual-trip-to-south-america/