



Nursery

EYFS

Unit Rationale Journeys

This unit has been designed to introduce nursery children to the concept of travel. Associated with this is lots of foundational knowledge about places, similarities and differences, locational and positional language, transport, and lots of knowledge about the local area the children live in. Children will build on their understanding from this unit when they study Transport in Reception. We've sequenced the units so that Reception are learning about Transport in Autumn 2 so that staff can look for opportunities to work together, for example if you had any trips or visitors relating to journeys or transport.

In this unit children will think about journeys that they've been on and will think about different types of journeys and why we may need to go on a journey. They will learn that a long time ago, some people travelled by horse and cart or steam train. Here children are building their chronological understanding, perhaps being able to say 'a long time ago' and 'but now we...' which is the beginning of the process they will go through to create a mental timeline as they work through the curriculum in early years and beyond. Children will build on this understanding in Reception when they look at transport.

Moving through the unit, children will then look at different types of transport that people could use on a journey. This is foundational knowledge that will be returned to in Reception. They will encounter planes, trains, bicycles, rockets and even hot air balloons when they think about how people can travel on journeys. They will learn that some people take journeys across water and that special kinds of transport are used for these journeys. Children will then think about journeys in their local area, how people travel and where they go. This knowledge will contribute to children's understanding of the ELG 'People, Culture and Communities'. Within these lessons there is scope to make this unit particularly relevant to the children you are teaching. If you live near major stations or a port for example, this is the place to teach children about them. Look for opportunities to link your local area to this unit.

Finally, children will think about journeys to the coldest places on earth. They will learn that the North Pole and the South Pole are very cold and travelling there is very difficult. Children will learn about the explorer Earnest Shackleton who travelled to the South Pole. They will learn that he had to plan and think carefully about how he would survive the cold. Learning about the North Pole and South Pole provides foundational knowledge for children who will learn about the Seven Continents in Year One. These sessions also provide a stark contrast for children who have looked at journeys in their local area, they can see major differences in the way people travel in different environments. This will support their understanding of the Reception unit; Transport.