

Willow Literacy / C&L : Autumn 2, Topic 2

*I know that natural life is governed by certain cycles - including the seasons, and of the cycle of night and day. I can make distinctions between the different points in a cycle and understand the way it might impact on animal, plant and human life. *I learned more about owls from non-fiction texts and from our owl-experience in school. I can extend my engagement with owls through storytelling and imaginative play *I understand that sleep is important for my health and happiness and can talk about my bedtime routines (including brushing my teeth!) and special teddies. *I learned the stories of Rama and Sita and of Jesus's birth, finding out their significance for Hindus and Christians. * I know that a festival is accompanied by celebratory traditions – and can talk about my experiences of celebrating an event.

Night Life



Weekly focus*

Day and Night

Little lamps are burning bright: celebrating Diwali

Why do we need to sleep?

Animals that come out at night.

Owls

Goodnight, goodbye, see you in the spring!

One starry night in Bethlehem.

How many sleeps til' Christmas?

***Aspects may change in response to the children's interests / planning 'in the moment'.**

Topic-specific Vocab

Understanding the world.

- Children are introduced to several seasonal celebrations, including the religious festivals of Channukah, Diwali and Christmas.
- Children learn about certain natural cycles including the seasons and day / night, observing them in the world around them and learning about their impact on animal and human life.
- Children understand the distinction between certain categories of animal - nocturnal and diurnal for instance. They learn how nocturnal animals are adapted to life at night.
- They learn the story of Rama and Sita, and of the birth of Jesus, finding out that they are special stories for Hindus (Diwali) and Christians (Christmas).
- They participate in forest school lessons, making observations about the natural world.
- Children learn that some people work at nighttime, readying the world for us when we wake and helping keep us safe at night.

Day / Night: Day refers to the period of time between **sunrise** and **sunset**, and night the time between sunset and sunrise.

During the day the sun is above the horizon. It is light, and generally warmer than that night, when the sun dips below the horizon. It is dark at night.

Nocturnal: meaning things that occur at night. Nocturnal animals are awake and active at night. Bats, hedgehogs, and owls are all nocturnal animals. They wake by night and sleep by day.

Diurnal: meaning things that occur during the day. We are diurnal - we are awake and active by day but sleep at night.

Adapt: An adaptation is a change made to better ensure survival in a particular environment. Nocturnal animals, for example, have developed powerful senses that help them live in the dark more effectively.

Non-fiction: Writing that is formative and factual rather than fictional.

Diwali: A Hindu festival of light held annually in celebration of the story of Rama and Sita. Numerous festive traditions, including lighting Diva lamps, and setting off fireworks take place at Diwali.

Expressive arts and design

- Children learn the action songs from our Nativity play, performing them for their parents.
- Children learn and sing a lullaby, devising ways of moving expressively to the music.
- Children complete a range of arts activities, to include creating wax resist Diwali collages, Van Gogh's Starry Night inspired paintings, and designing patterned pyjamas. As part of DT, they will make pop-up Christmas cards.
- Make use of owl costumes, puppets, and props to enhance their imaginative play around the topic.

Sleep: A time of rest when the body relaxes, our eyes close, and consciousness is suspended.

Lullaby: A song sung for the purposes of aiding sleep.

Cycle: A series of events that regularly repeat in the same order - such as the cycle of the seasons, or of night and day.

Seasons: Autumn / Winter: The year is divided into 4 seasons, each with distinctive natural characteristics and weather.

Autumn marks the transition from summer to Winter. Many crops are ready for harvesting, and leaves change colour and fall from trees. Winter is a period of dormancy in nature when plant growth is suspended and animal activity decreases. The weather is typically cold.

Hibernation: To cope with the harsh conditions of winter, when food is scant, some animals hibernate, sleeping through the whole season and only emerging from their sleep in spring. Bears, hedgehogs, and ladybirds are all animals that hibernate.

Migration: A seasonal return-journey made by animals from one habitat to another. Reasons for animal migration include the search for food and more temperate conditions.

Christmas: A festival taking place annually on 25th December in remembrance of the birth of Jesus. Celebratory traditions surround Christmas, one of the principal festive holidays. In the UK

		Sticky Knowledge
Personal, Social, & Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children join in with an owl handling session, overcoming any nervousness around meeting a new animal. Children attend a Night forest school session at the maze. They overcome any nervousness, going for a walk in the dark. Children learn about the importance of a good night's sleep for their health and wellbeing. Children understand the importance of brushing their teeth and are taught about good oral hygiene. Children work together on a nativity production, learning their parts and performing them on stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will talk about time in terms of day and night, finding out the ways they can be distinguished from one another. Some animals - including bats, hedgehogs and owls - become active at nighttime. They are nocturnal. Nocturnal animals are well adapted to life at night, having especially acute senses that allow them to live in the dark. We are not nocturnal - we are diurnal, meaning we are active in the day but sleep at night. People in certain services and industries however do go out to work at night. They do important jobs readying the world for us and keeping people safe through the night. We can use non-fiction texts to find out more about a particular subject - owls for instance. We need sleep to help us stay healthy and happy. When we sleep, our body recovers from a busy day, renewing its energies, and storing that day's learning. As part of our bedtime routines, we brush our teeth. It's one of the ways we keep our mouths healthy, along with making tooth-friendly choices. All animals sleep - although not animals sleep in quite the same way. For example, while we sleep lying down, a horse sleeps standing up! Some animals sleep through the winter when it is cold and food is scarce - this is called hibernation. Prior to hibernation, animals will 'feed up' in preparation for a long period without food. Some animals make long journeys to overwinter in warmer places where food is plentiful. We call these annual return journeys a migration. The topic spans the seasons of autumn and winter. We can spot seasonal signs in the natural world around us. Several celebrations take place during the period of our topic: Halloween, Bonfire night, Diwali, Channukah, Advent and Christmas. A common feature to all is the importance of light - both as part of the celebration, and for the symbolism of a light in the darkness. We will learn the story of the first Christmas which we will retell through a nativity performance.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children continue to build an understanding of time and the passing of time and, as part of our learning on shape, space and measure, learn about the cycle of day / night, the days of the week and months of the year. They will find the month in which their birthday falls, and make observation about the spread of Willow birthdays across the year. Children will sequence familiar routines, including their bedtime routine. 	
Enhancement opportunities include...		
Visit from Rabbi (Hannukah) Meet the owl's experience. Wear your Pyjamas to school for the day! Night forest school at the maze Visit from ecologist, Giles Sutton Nativity play performances. Class Christmas Party		
Links to KS1 & KS2 include...		
Y1: RE Why is the story of Rama and Sita important Y2: RE How do Christians celebrate Easter Y2 & Y6: Living things and their habitats Y3: How does light travel? Y5: Science Light- refraction/reflection Y4: Science Animal digestion Owl Pellets Y6: Evolution and inheritance (adaption)		

Topic texts to include... (but not be limited to...)

