

Merlin



Recommended year group: Year 4 **Theme focus:** Science, Art, PSHE, Design Technology, Music, History, English **Suggested term:** Autumn

Theme introduction

Merlin is a science-driven theme that begins with an overview of the legend of King Arthur and related stories, such as the help he received from Merlin the wizard, the Sword in the Stone, and the Knights of the Round Table, before linking this to learning based on the states of matter. Pupils will discover the properties of solids, liquids and gases by taking part in a series of investigations. In Explores with a Design Technology focus, pupils will discover what makes a successful fort or castle after looking at the fictitious Camelot and then real-life examples, and then design and make their own. This theme will allow pupils to develop their science knowledge and investigative skills as well as an understanding of magic and mystery!

Driving Question

Could it be magic?

Switch on Science Unit

Looking at states

Switch on Computing Unit

We are software developers

Linked Reading Texts

Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling

Clockwork by Philip Pullman

Writing Outcomes

Stories in imaginary worlds:

Narrative: Imaginative stories – ‘What happens next’ chapter for the Sword in the Stone.

Playscripts:

Re-write and re-enact a scene between Arthur and Merlin.

Curriculum Coverage

Science – States of matter

DT – Design: design criteria, make: materials, make: food preparation and cooking

PSHE – Mental health

Art – Evaluating and appreciating

English – Reading

History – Historical enquiry and sources

Music – Improvise and compose, instruments

Excite

Arthurian myths and legends day. Throughout the day, pupils are immersed in the world of Arthurian myths and legends, exploring a range of features, including stories such as *The Sword in the Stone* and *Lady of the Lake*, alongside aspects such as the Knights of the Round Table, Lancelot, Camelot, Guinevere, etc.

Invite Merlin and King Arthur into the classroom for a hot seating activity.

Explore

There are thirteen explore sessions:

Explore 1: The Sword in the Stone

Explore 2: Mystical music

Explore 3: Knights of the Round Table

Explore 4: Character

Explore 5: Merlin's laboratory

Explore 6: Are all liquids the same?

Explore 7: Who's got gas?

Explore 8: Magic or science?

Explore 9: Camelot

Explore 10: Making Camelot

Explore 11: Merlin's magic potions

Explore 12: Magic art

Explore 13: Wellbeing: King Arthur – Servant to king

Theme essential vocabulary:

Arthur, castle, condensation, evaporation, fort, gas, knight, liquid, Merlin, solid, states of matter, viscosity, wizard

Essential knowledge/concepts

1. Arthur, Merlin and the knights are fictitious characters from legends including the Sword in the Stone and the Knights of the Round Table.
2. Texture describes how layers of sounds work together in a piece of music.
3. The Knights of the Round Table lived in King Arthur's castle with him and took part in quests.
4. There are three states of matter: solid, liquid and gas.
5. The particles are arranged differently in each state of matter. In solids, they are packed tightly together and do not move. In liquids, they have less of an order and move around one another freely. In a gas, the particles move randomly.
6. Viscosity describes the thickness of a liquid.
7. Some liquids are more viscous than others.
8. Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and helium are used in everyday life for things such as making fizzy drinks, fuel for cooking and inflating balloons.
9. Water's melting point is 0 °C and water freezes when the temperature drops below 0 °C.
10. When water is heated, it changes to a gas called steam and this is called evaporation.
11. When a gas cools down, it changes back to a liquid. This is called condensation.
12. Forts and castles were designed and built with certain features that helped to protect them from attack and enable those living inside the walls to live comfortably.

Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 1: The Sword in the Stone

Explore 5: Merlin's laboratory

Explore 6: Are all liquids the same?

Explore 9: Camelot

Exhibit

Is That Magic Live! Year 4 host a science fair/workshop for families in which they demonstrate how matter changes states – i.e. they'll demonstrate how things melt, evaporate, solidify and condense and explain how, why and when these changes occur.

Possible wider experiences:

Pupils to take part in a science workshop. Teachers or an external company to plan and deliver fun and wacky science investigations.

Flipped learning opportunities

1. Investigate and read Arthurian myths and legends.
2. Watch films about wizards and mystical beings and complete a film review.

Family learning suggestion

Explore solids, liquids and gases at home.

Make a log of different materials, their state and why you use them. Log any changes to materials you see – e.g. what melts, solidifies, become gaseous? Why?

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

A Spoonful of Sugar – from *Mary Poppins*

Love Potion No. 9 – by *the Searchers*

Key piece of art

The Alchemist Discovering Phosphorus – Joseph Wright of Derby

Key poem

Fire burn and cauldron bubble – Macbeth