

Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

At a Glance

G. 1 students are thrilled when they are talking about animals. They even show lots of interest in feelings of animals.

G. 2 students went interviewing visitors at Tsim Sha Tsui last month. Some classes met visitors who come from Finland. Some classes met visitors who come from the U.K.

G. 3 students are learning Procedural Writing. If you want to know how they make sandwiches, go get their recipes.

G. 4 students would like to present to you how natural disasters have taken away human lives without giving a single warning.

G. 5 students got inspired after visiting HKNCGA. Most of them started their inventions during CNY holidays, and they will present their work in front of their peers soon.

G. 6 students enjoy the wonders of nature. They are now working on animals.



The weather around the world has been very unpredictable for the past few years. It has been especially true here in Hong Kong for the past few months. Since records began in 1884, Hong Kong has sweltered through its hottest November. It was thought winter would not come visiting us anymore. In January, however, the temperature dropped to a record low of 3°C degrees Celsius. Grown-ups counted the number of layers they were wearing to ensure they were warm enough. Children blew air on window panes or mirrors for fun.

Have you ever thought of the reasons of the cause of weather chaos? It is really time for us to do something to delay and stop the damage to the earth brought about by irresponsible people. But do not make it a hollow mission as it is easy said than done. Try to take it as our life mission to implement it. Starting small, you may help your mum to sort garbage out, stop working at night to save energy, finish taking a shower within 10 minutes, riding mass transit railway for transportation, etc.

Have you ever heard, 'Colour of the Wind', the theme song of a cartoon called Pocahontas produced by Walt Disney? There is a wonderful line of the lyrics I would like to share with you: "... every rock and tree and creature has a life, has a spirit, has a name." Children, think about developing a habit of reverence and respect for all things on this planet. You will learn how great and beautiful Mother Nature is, and understand her need of your protection.

Try asking your parents to prepare for you beautiful, colourful vegetables, fruits and grains for meals every day. Savour the true taste, the freshness, the sunshine of each kind of food in every bite. It is important to give proper respect to the ground beneath our feet. Being grateful for the food our lands and oceans give us is one of the big steps to know the importance of protecting Mother Nature and our planet.

Human beings are naturally selfish, so they always take and seldom give. But our planet is really sick this time, we should offer help. Although global warming is a serious and urgent problem, we do not need to wait for our government or wise men to find a solution for us. Each of us can contribute a little to stop global warming by adopting a more responsible lifestyle. Please start small or start from everyday things as suggested above. I am sure you can do it. Take action now before it is too late.

Beatrice Chiu, the Primary English Panel Head

Grade 1

Grade One students have started a new module – Animals! They are very excited about this module, especially about the habitats of animals (such as tundra, plain, mountain, rainforest and desert) and the animal kingdom too. There are five groups in the animal kingdom. The five groups are: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds.

Do you know what animals we can find in Hong Kong? Do you keep pets? Do you know how to take care of your pets? Do you know your pets have feelings? Please come to visit Hong Kong SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) with us!



Grade 2

Yippee! We went on an excursion to Star Ferry Pier in Tsim Sha Tsui! The purpose of this interviewing activity is to help students learn more about how visitors think about Hong Kong. They set various kinds of questions and asked the visitors they met in a very polite and confident way.

☺ *Some popular questions set by the students* ☺

**What is your favourite place in Hong Kong?*

**How many days are you going to stay in Hong Kong?*

**What food interests you the most?*

**Do you like Hong Kong? Why?*

Although it was cold in early February, it did not cause the loss of the students' enthusiasm and excitement in this interviewing activity ! Many of the visitors they met were kind and happy to

answer their questions. Some of the students were even interviewed by the visitors in return! It was such a fun and successful excursion! All G. 2 students were brave, and they asked questions without hesitation. Also, all parent helpers were very supportive throughout the entire activity. Thank you so much! 😊

THANK YOU



😊 Gallery time 😊

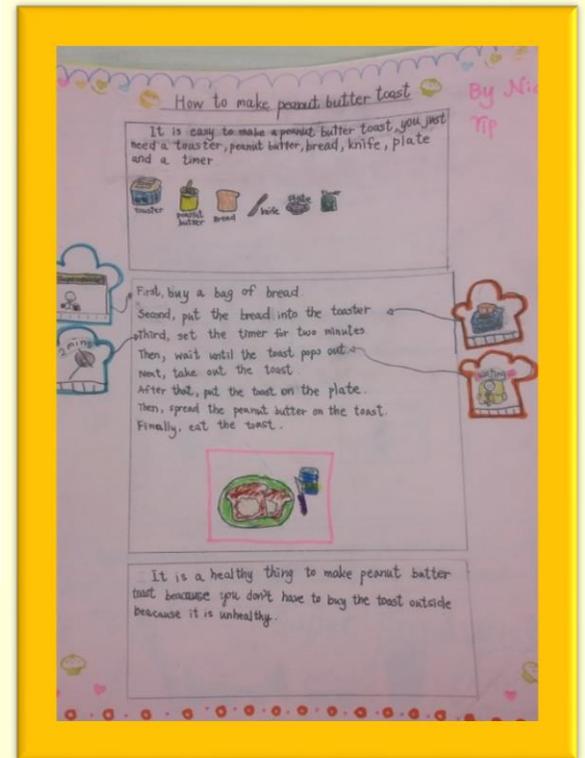


Grade 3

Procedure Writing

Our third graders are currently learning procedural writing. Before they started working on their writing, they discussed ways to help their readers understand the steps from readers' points of view.

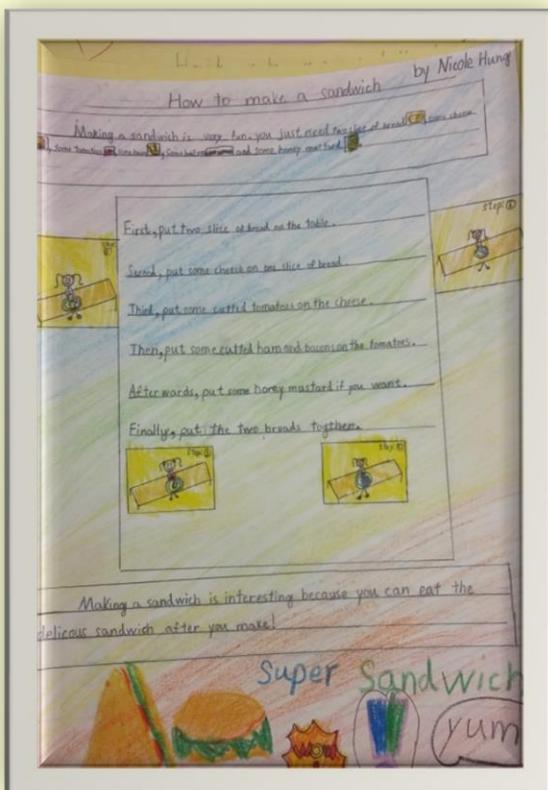
After the discussion, students learnt to use imperatives to give direct instructions. In order to show steps clearly, students also made good use of



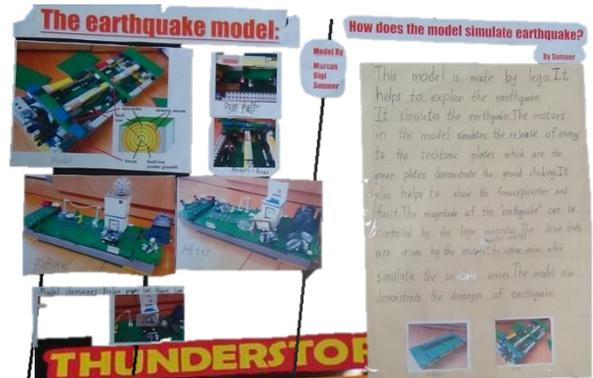
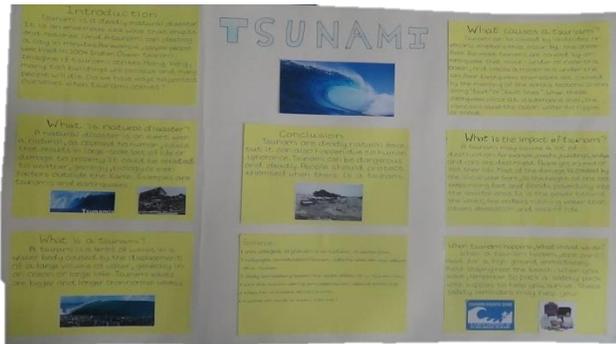
sequence words, such as 'first', 'second', 'after that' and 'finally'.

Do you know how to make a sandwich? All G. 3 students were invited to present their writing in class to share the tricks they have to make a delicious sandwich. This activity helped our students a lot with their presentation skills!

They had so much fun choosing their favourite ingredients for their SUPER sandwich! Let's have a look at the pieces of procedural writing written by them!



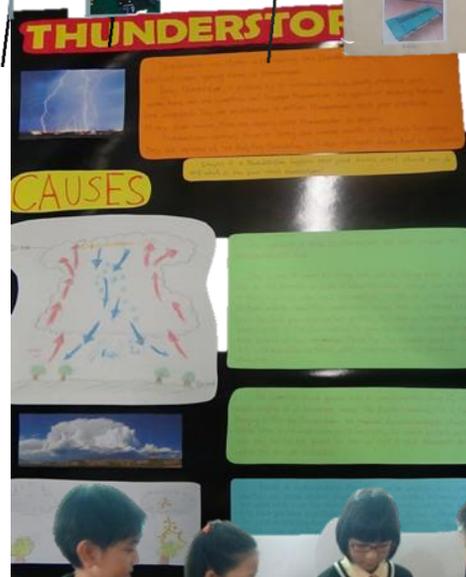
They collected data from different sources. They played different roles in the group. Also they created a power point for the presentation.



Below are pictures showing a demonstration of a volcanic eruption. In this activity, students have learnt how volcanic eruptions affect global climate.

Students made a volcano model and had it erupt, using bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and food colouring.

Below are a number of sample posters created by the 4th graders.



How are tornadoes formed?



Grade 5

Grade Five

As

part of their learning of "Inventions" in Module 2, Grade Five students recently embarked on an invigorating excursion to the Science Innovation Centre in Sai Kung, established by the Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association (HKNGCA).



At the Centre, the students were given an informative lecture on the concept of SCAMPER (Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Magnify/Minify, Put to other uses, Eliminate, Rearrange/Reverse) and some remarkable inventions that result from this thought process. Director of the Centre, Dr. Jimmy Wong, encouraged our students to be creative,

to keep their minds open and to make use of platforms to demonstrate their innovative and scientific talents.



To further inspire them, the students were given a tour to see up close and personal some noteworthy inventions created by local children and youth inventors. The excursion was indeed a catalyst for enquiry, discovery and invention for our students as they take on their Module 2 Project for which they will develop their own inventions!



Grade 6

The 6th graders are currently reading a book called “Wonders of Nature”. There are about 10 to 12 strange and interesting animals in this book .

They now understand more how some strange animals adapt to the environment because of their special abilities.

They were divided into small groups to create a Power Point on one chosen animal. Look at the pictures below and the brief description done by some of the students. Good job, boys and girls!



EPA

GRADE FOUR

After telling stories and learning some introductory skills for acting in Grades 2 and 3, 4th Graders extend their knowledge and practice more complex EPA skills.

In preparation for their milestone Grade 5 Performance in 2017, EPA in Grade 4 focuses on building skills in taking a character from the written page and performing as that person onstage. Students achieve this by growing and developing in their 4 EPA skills of Drama, Movement, Voice and Music.



DRAMA

DRAMA in Grade 4 focuses on bringing a character to life and interpreting them within a specific dramatic context for the entertainment of an audience.

In **MOVEMENT**, Grade 4 students learn to develop their balance, coordination, control and creativity through moving to diverse music and dancing with props.

MOVEMENT



MUSIC

The **MUSIC** module in Grade 4 allows students to devise and stage their own musical performance of a range of songs from definitive standards (“Close to You”, “Let It Be”) to more recent songs from musicals and pop (“My Favourite Things”, “Roar”).

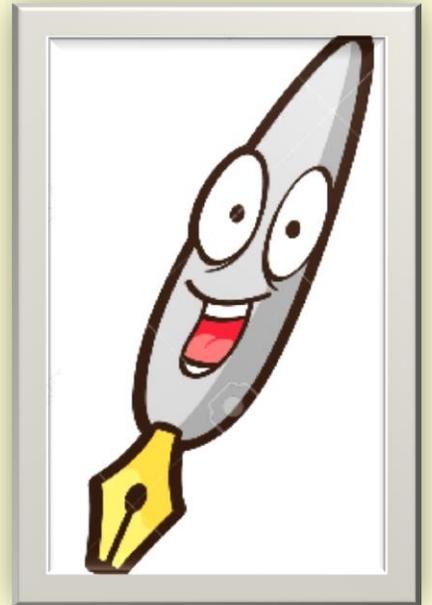
The **VOICE** module centres on chants, stories and poetry, through which students develop their skills in vocal variety, expressive and appropriate gestures, movements and staging.

VOICE



Soon, the Grade 4 students will get to showcase their learning and development during the Second Term English Week, a certain stepping stone their fantastic experience putting on their grand performance in the next year!

WRITERS' CORNER



How does the Saguaro Cactus survive in the desert?

Imagine yourself living in the boiling desert and you are not allowed to bring anything or move. You might die after a day. However, the saguaro cactus can live for more than hundred years in the desert.



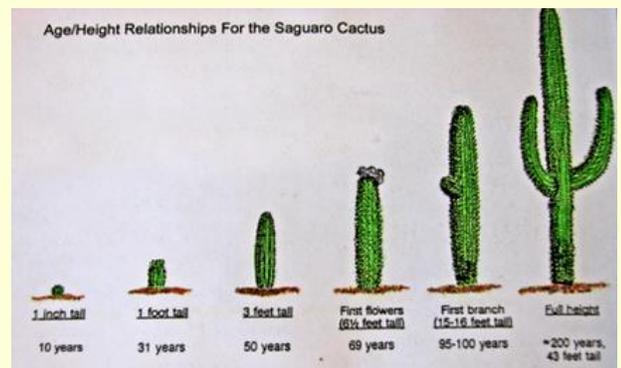
The saguaro cactus has no leaves but it has many spines. The spines are two-inch long. The cactus's flowers bloom at night. The flowers are white in colour. Soon, it will grow red fruits.

A young saguaro struggles to live in the steaming desert. Fortunately, it has a nurse plant to help it survive. A nurse plant is usually a bush or a tree. It helps shield the young saguaro from extreme temperatures. The shade helps the saguaro prevent water loss. The nurse plant also hides the young saguaro from animals that eat it.

If the saguaro wants to survive the heat, it must get enough water. The spines on the saguaro are tough and sharp. They prevent water loss. The skin is hard and waxy, so water does not escape easily. The saguaro's roots go deep into the ground. They spread wide in all directions. They help the cactus soak up the brief desert rains. The saguaro's body is grown for storing water. Its folded surface that is able to expand or swell up.

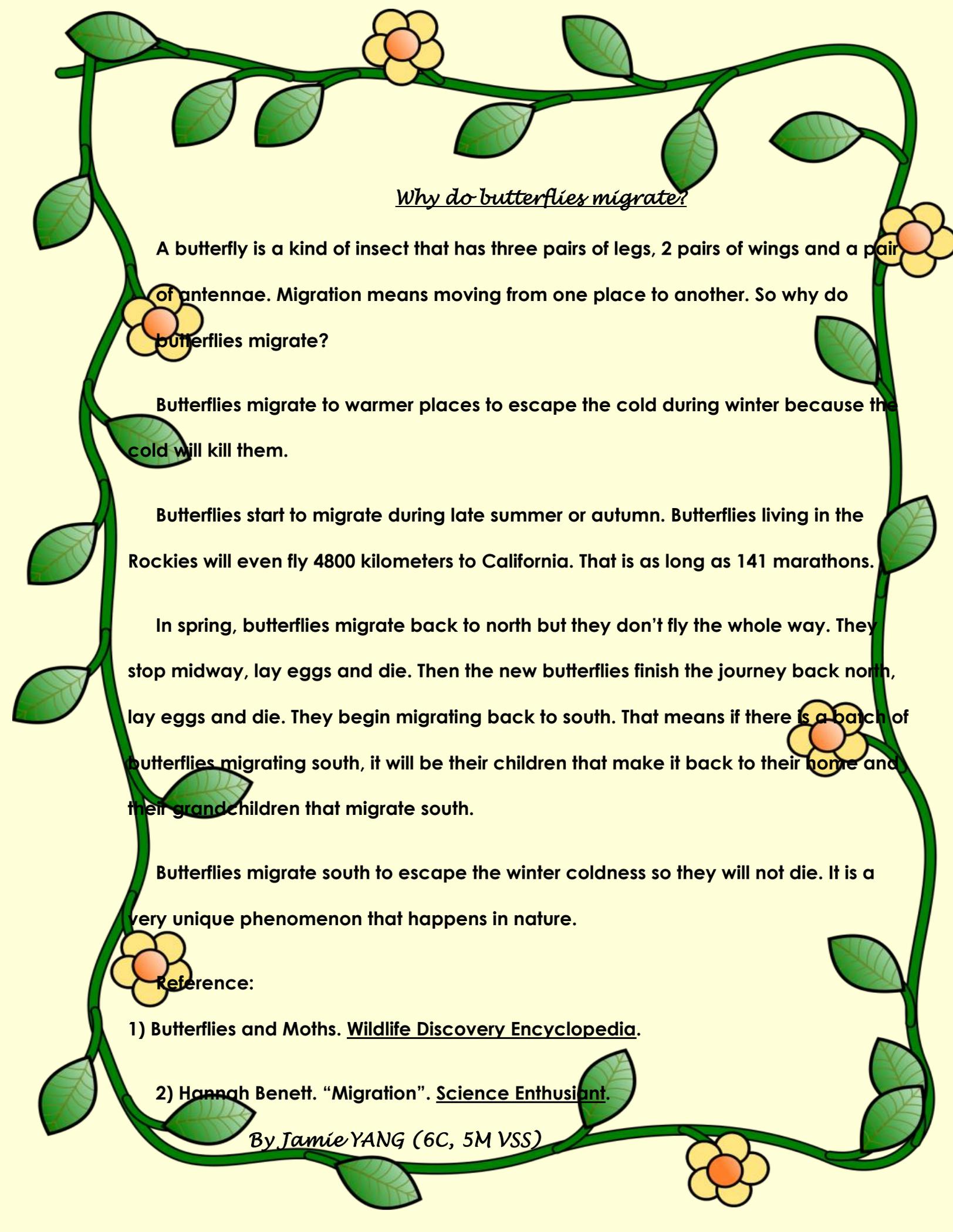
Food is rare in the desert for animals. Therefore, some of them eat saguaros. To protect itself, the saguaro has needles. Unfortunately, some birds can still break through the skin and eat the flesh of the saguaro. However, the saguaro can recover without problems. It has tough scar tissues to heal wounds.

The saguaro cactus is a special plant. In order to survive in the desert, its features help it absorb and retain water, and to get away from the predators.



References:

1. Saguaro Life Cycle. Encyclopedia Sonorensis.
2. "Saguaro Survivors." <www.writing a-z.com>



Why do butterflies migrate?

A butterfly is a kind of insect that has three pairs of legs, 2 pairs of wings and a pair of antennae. Migration means moving from one place to another. So why do butterflies migrate?

Butterflies migrate to warmer places to escape the cold during winter because the cold will kill them.

Butterflies start to migrate during late summer or autumn. Butterflies living in the Rockies will even fly 4800 kilometers to California. That is as long as 141 marathons.

In spring, butterflies migrate back to north but they don't fly the whole way. They stop midway, lay eggs and die. Then the new butterflies finish the journey back north, lay eggs and die. They begin migrating back to south. That means if there is a batch of butterflies migrating south, it will be their children that make it back to their home and their grandchildren that migrate south.

Butterflies migrate south to escape the winter coldness so they will not die. It is a very unique phenomenon that happens in nature.

Reference:

1) Butterflies and Moths. Wildlife Discovery Encyclopedia.

2) Hannah Benett. "Migration". Science Enthusiant.

By *Jamie* YANG (6C, 5M VSS)

Wonders of Nature PowerPoint Writing and Presentation



What are Moles?

- Type: Mammal
- Size: 12-15cm
- Weight: 250-550g
- Life Span: 3-6 years
- Color: Brown, Grey, Black, White
- Skin Type: Fur
- Favourite Food: Earthworms
- Habitat: Woodland, grassland and farmland
- Main Prey: Earthworms, Insects, Mice
- Predators: Cats, Owls, Foxes
- Special Features: Long curved claws and pointed snout



2

What is so special about Moles?

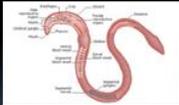
- Lives in tunnels underground
- Have long, curved claws which is use to burrow underground.
- Can quickly create long tunnels under the surface of the earth.



3

What do Moles eat?

- Earthworms, insects, mice.
- The saliva of mole contains a toxin that can paralyze small animals such as earthworms.



4

Where do Moles live ?

- Spend most of their lives underground.
- Moles in North America, prefers to live in fields, meadows, pastures and woods shaded by vegetation.
- The Pacific mole, inhabits habitats full of brush and dry wood.



5

Thank You!



6P Linus Chan (2)
6P Stacie So (20)

6

Bears

Bears are animals that usually live in the forest, caves and even houses. They mostly eat grass, roots and insects. They will also eat fish and other dead animals.



Here are three adaptations that bears have:

1. Bears hibernate in the cold weather. This adaptation helps them to survive in winter when food is hard to find.
2. They have strong arms and claws. This adaptation helps them to dig for food in logs and dirt.
3. Their claws are sharp and curved. This adaptation helps them to catch fish.

Bears face many threats. Wolves and lions are the bear's predator, and some adult male bears may also attack young bears. Due to humans cutting down forests, these mammals are losing their habitat.

Some bears are cute, but some are terrifying.

Like this one:



This is a bear that has very sharp teeth. Some bears don't catch fish for lunch; they eat people for every meal. You might want to stay away from this "Freddy" bear unless you want to give him a hug; then he will stay with you until you sleep.

Different bears have different habitats. They also have different diets. I hope you guys learn more about bears.

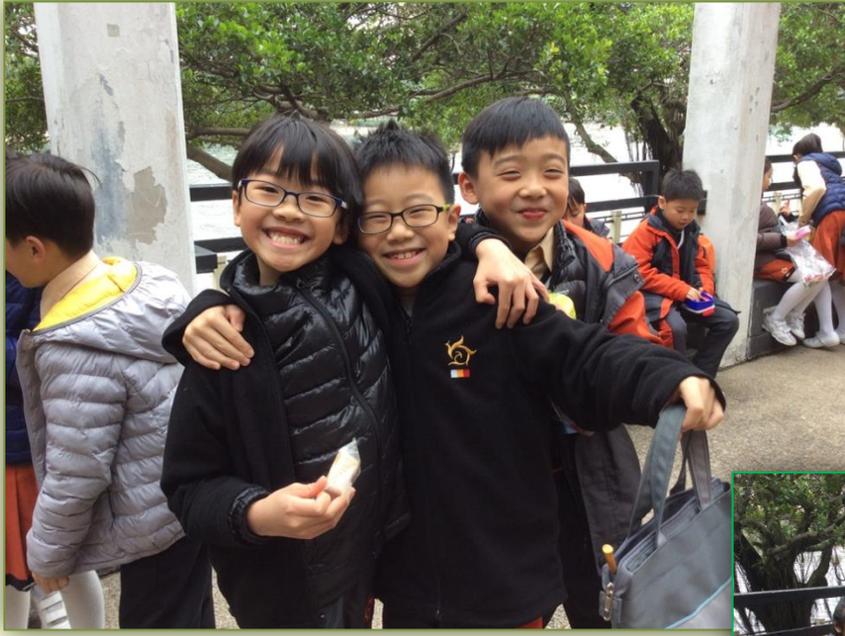
I especially like the ones which have sharp teeth and eat children every night.

By Jake HO (6M)

PHOTOS AROUND

CAMPUS





Happy Birthday!



