

Year 2

Spring 1

Big Question- Why is our world so wonderful (Africa focus)?

Please read through the following with your child to prepare them for what they will be learning:

Key Vocabulary

endangered	A species of animal or plant that is at risk of becoming extinct (no longer existing).
game reserve	A protected area of land where humans are allowed to live and carry out some different activities.
habitat	The natural home of a plant or animal.
migration	When animals move from one area to another, often to find food, water or shelter.
national park	A protected area of land where only tourism and research is allowed. No humans live there.
rural	Areas away from towns or cities, also known as the countryside.
savannah	Tropical grasslands with shrubs and trees but not much rainfall.
tourists	People who travel for fun.

Where is Kenya?

- Located in east Africa.
- Population of around 44 million.
- The capital city is Nairobi.
- Mombasa, situated on the coast, is one of Kenya's largest cities.
- The Tana river is the longest river in Kenya.
- Mount Kenya is the highest mountain (5200m).
- Kenya's coastline is on the Indian Ocean.
- Swahili and English are the official languages.



Weather and Climate

Kenya lies on the equator.	Climate is hot, sunny and dry for most of the year.
Hot, dry deserts in the north.	Hot and humid in the west.
The highlands are cool.	Mount Kenya is high enough to be covered in snow all year round.

National Parks and Reserves

- There are over 50 **national parks** and **game reserves**.
- They include different types of wildlife and **habitats**, including wetlands, grasslands, forest and **savannah**.
- The Maasai Mara National Reserve is one of the most popular reserves for **tourists** to visit.
- Millions of **tourists** visit the famous reserve to go on safari, explore the landscape and to see the amazing wildlife, including the 'Big Five'.
- Each year visitors come to watch the huge **migration** of wildebeest.
- Some animals in Kenya are **endangered** and are protected within the parks and reserves.

The Maasai Tribe

- Maasai people traditionally live in mud huts made from mud, sticks, grass and cow dung.
- Many Maasai are farmers and own large herds of cows, goats and sheep.
- The Maasai people love music and dance. They often sing and the men perform a special jumping dance.



Traditional mud hut.

School Life in Kenya

- Most children in Kenya go to school, but not all of them.
- Some children, especially in **rural** areas, are too busy helping their families by working on the farm, cooking or fetching water.
- At school, some children may be different ages but in the same year group.



Maasai Tribe.

The Big Five - the largest and most dangerous African animals



African lion



African elephant



Cape buffalo



African leopard



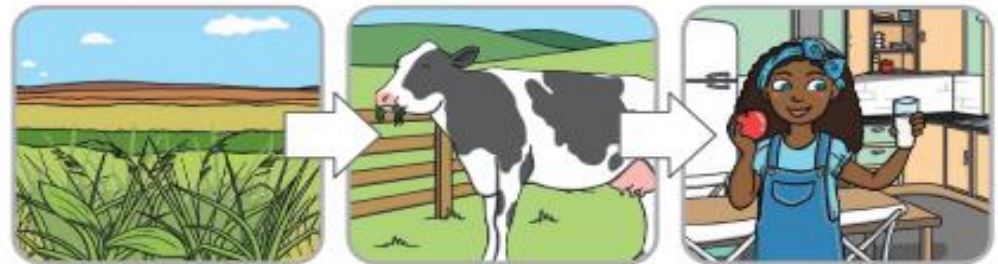
White/black rhinoceros

Key Vocabulary	
life processes	These are the things that all living things do. They move, breathe, sense, grow, make babies, get rid of waste and get their energy from food.
living	Things that are living have all the life processes .
dead	Things that are dead were once living . They did have all the life processes but don't now.
never living	Things made out of metal, plastic or rock were never living . They never had the life processes .
food chain	A food chain shows how each animal gets its food. Food chains are one of the ways that living things depend on each other to stay alive.
food sources	This is the place a living thing's food comes from.

Key Knowledge



Food chains. The arrows mean 'is eaten by'.



Key Vocabulary

habitat	A habitat is the natural place something lives. A habitat provides living things with everything they need to survive such as food, shelter and water.
microhabitat	A microhabitat is a very small habitat in places like under a rock, under leaves or on a branch. Minibeasts live in microhabitats . The microhabitats have everything they need to survive .
depend	Many living things in a habitat depend on each other. This means they need each other for different things.
survive	This means to stay alive.

Key Knowledge

Examples of **habitats**:



woodland



urban



coastal



rainforest



arctic



desert



ocean



river



mountain

Examples of **microhabitats**:



short grass



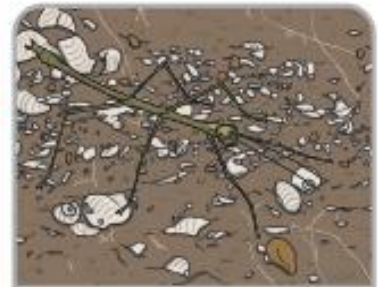
flowers



inside rotting wood



under leaves



in and on soil

