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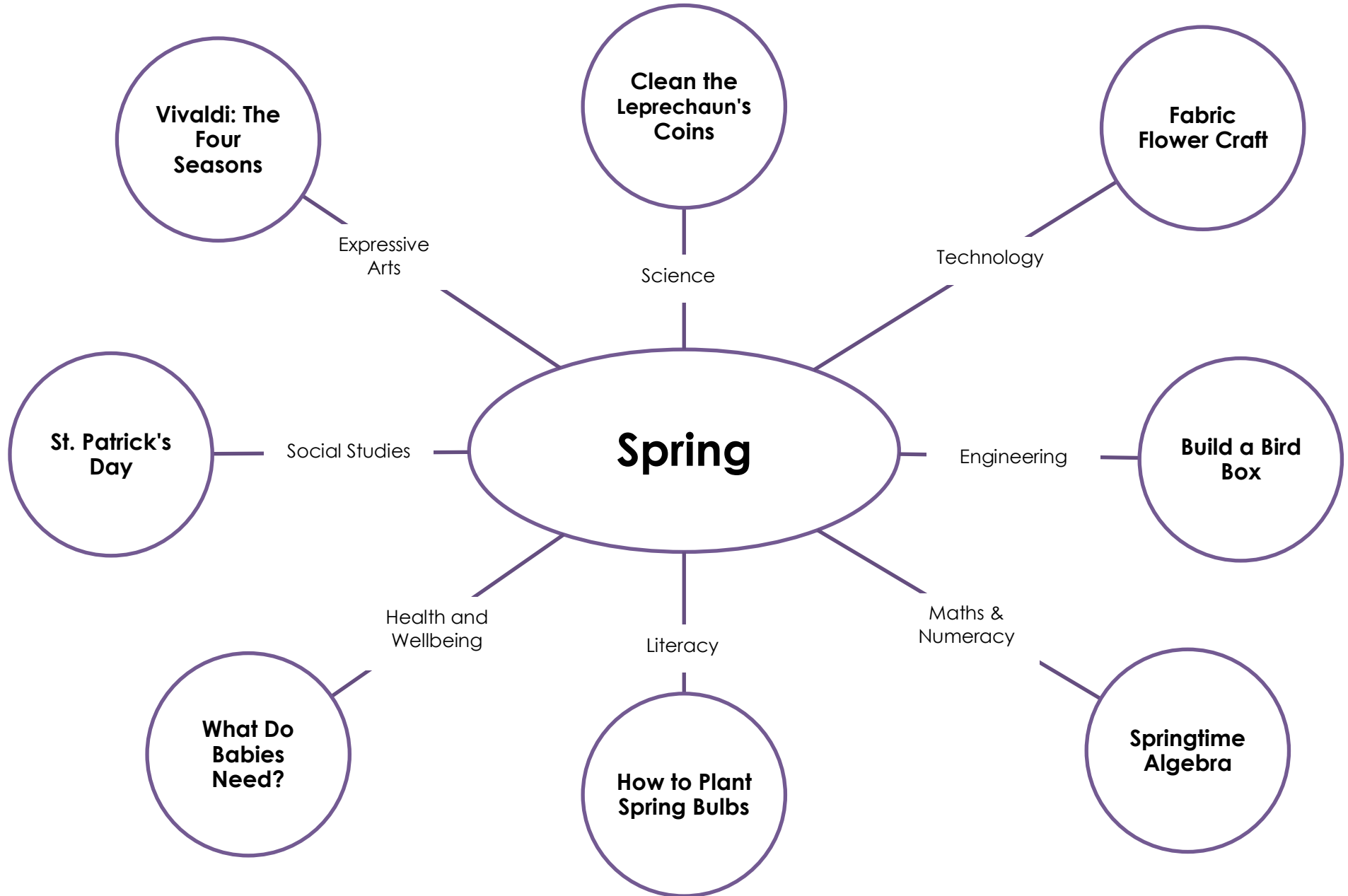
Science Challenge

Clean the Leprechaun's Coins

St. Patrick's Day is on Thursday 17th March and Irish folklore tells us that shoemaker fairies, called leprechauns, put a pot of shiny coins at the end of each rainbow which they then guard.

Coins become dirty over time so how could a leprechaun keep his coins shiny and clean? Let's find out.

You will need: white vinegar, salt, water, 2 bowls with a good size bottom base, a teaspoon, paper towels or kitchen roll, discoloured 1p and 2p coins

Instructions:

1. Fill 2 small bowls with about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of vinegar and a teaspoon of salt each. Mix thoroughly.
2. Before dropping about 5 pennies into a bowl, take one and dip it halfway into the bowl. Count to 10 slowly and pull it out. What happened?
3. Add a few more pennies and let them sit for a few minutes. What can you see happening? (Make sure to add 5 pennies to the other bowl too.)
4. Now, take the pennies from one bowl, rinse them in running tap water and let them dry on a paper towel. Take the other pennies from the other bowl and place them directly on another paper towel without rinsing them first. Now wait an hour and see what happens. **Make a prediction** – what do you think will happen? **Talk to an adult at home about it.**
5. Can you see any differences between the two groups of pennies, the rinsed and unrinsed pennies? Do you now have some green and / or shiny pennies?

The Science: Coins in the UK – 1ps and 2ps, are made mostly from a metal called copper. Copper is shiny and bright but when the tiny particles (atoms) in the copper mix with oxygen atoms in the air, copper oxide is formed giving the coins a dull greenish grey dirty colour. Adding the coins to the mixture of salt and vinegar, which is a mild acid, should dissolve the copper oxide revealing the original shiny clean metal below.

Activity adapted from https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/
Clipart from www.clipart-library.com

Technology Challenge

Fabric Flower Craft

Adult Supervision Required

Today we are doing a fabric flower craft which will use up any scraps of material and provide you with sewing practise. These flowers can be wired, or you can glue them onto sticks and stand them in a pot, sew them onto headbands, hats, T-shirts or bags, or stitch a safety pin on the back to make pretty flower brooches. They would make a lovely gift.

You will need: scrap fabric in 2 different designs, pins, sewing needle, buttons, thread, paper, ruler, scissors, something circular to draw around, (garden wire, lolly sticks, glue – optional)

Instructions:

1. Cut out 2 paper circles about 4 and 6 inches in diameter (across). (Draw around something circular like a cup or bowl) Loosely attach each to one of the pieces of fabric with pins or tac and cut out.
2. Cut a piece of thread long enough to go all the way around the edge of your biggest circle with some spare. Knot one end and thread the other through the needle.
3. Sew a loose running stitch* around the outside of the largest circle, finishing with the thread to the right side of the fabric.
4. Pull the thread so the fabric gathers. Secure the gap with a few stitches. Knot the fabric and tie off the thread.
5. Repeat with the smaller circle.
6. When you have your two circles, layer them up with a button over the top hole. Stitch the button in place going through both circles.
7. Choose what you want to do with your flower. You can sew it onto something else or you could glue a stick or wire to the back then put it in a vase.

*__*Click here to watch a short video explaining how to do a running stitch:__*
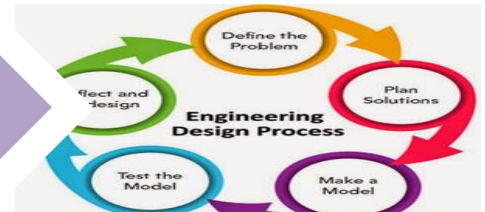__*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1-B01FB56s__*

Safety Note:
Needles and pins are very sharp – be very careful. Ask an adult to supervise you. They may even have a 'thimble' – ask them.

Activity and images from www.activityvillage.co.uk

Engineering Challenge

Build a Bird Box

Adult Supervision May Be Required

Spring is the season when birds start to lay their eggs.

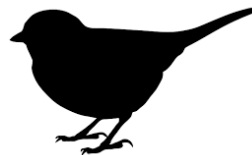**Challenge**: Build a birdbox for a garden bird from recycled materials.

Plan it: Write down or sketch some ideas as to how you will construct the birdbox.

Build it: Using materials you have at home. Try sitting a toy inside it to see if the size is suitable. You could recycle old milk or juice cartons and bottles. You might even want to use lego or other building blocks. **Remember to ask an adult for help if using scissors!**

Test it: Does your toy fit comfortably inside the birdbox?
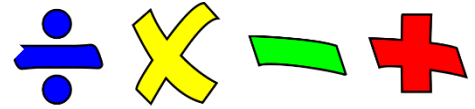
Improve it: Could you add any special features or decorate it to make the birdbox even better? Perhaps you could make it waterproof, or you could make a soft lining for the inside?

Can you take a photograph of your finished birdbox with your toy in it? If you can, paste the photo onto a *Word* document and type up a short explanation of what it is and how you built the birdbox. Remember to give your document a name before saving it. Ask a grown up for help if you need to.

Images from www.clipart-library.com

Maths & Numeracy Challenge

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Springtime Algebra

1. Can you work out how much each Spring animal and flower is worth?

🐑 + 7 = 12   🐑 =   🌼 x 3 = 12   🌼 =

🐑 - 3 = 7   🐑 =   🌸 ÷ 5 = 3   🌸 =

🐤 + 3 = 15   🐤 =   💮 ÷ 4 = 5   💮 =

2. Now work out the answer to the following Spring calculations

🐑 + 🐑 =   🐤 - 🌼 =

🐤 x 🐑 =   💮 ÷ 🐑 =

🌸 + 🐑 + 🐑 - 💮 =

3. Now try to make up some of your own calculations using Spring pictures - you can draw them if you like. Ask an adult at home if they can work out the **value** of each picture. (How much it is worth)

Images from www.clipart-library.com

Literacy Challenge

How to Plant Spring Bulbs

Lewis wants to plant some spring bulbs, but the instructions have got muddled up. Can you help him put the instructions back into the correct order?

When you have reordered the instructions, write out everything (Title, You will Need, and the Instructions) in your best handwriting. Add some pictures and use a ruler for any lines you might draw.

You will need:
A flowerpot, an old spoon or trowel, some soil, 2 or 3 bulbs, a watering can

Instructions:

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

Fill the flowerpot to the top

Water the bulbs.

Get the flowerpot.

Push the bulbs gently into the soil, with pointed part upwards.

Leave to grow, watering regularly.

Use the spoon or trowel to scoop the soil into the flowerpot.

Cover the bulbs with soil.

Make a hole in the soil for each bulb

Activity idea from TES   Images from www.clipartlibrary.com

Health & Wellbeing Challenge

What Do Babies Need?

Spring is a time for new life. Lots of animals have their babies at this time of year as it becomes warmer, and more food sources become available.

Unlike some animals, humans can have babies at any time of year. Babies need a lot of care to help them grow and develop.

Click here to find out more about life with a newborn baby:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9QndNXcnCU

Task 1: Use words from the word bank below to complete the passage.

Babies need lots of _____ and _____. Looking after a baby is a _____ job. Babies can't tell you what they want, so they communicate by _____. In the first few months, all a baby needs to eat or drink is _____.

Some babies are breast fed and others are given formula milk in a _____. Parents can also choose to give their baby a _____ to soothe them. A baby also needs to _____ a lot. Babies might sleep in a cot or a baby basket.

Parents will need to change their baby's _____ as many as ten times a day! It is important that babies are kept warm and _____. Some babies really enjoy a _____.

Don't forget that a new baby needs lots of attention and stimulation to help them grow and develop. They love being _____, read, sung and talked to. They also enjoy playing with soft _____.

| milk | difficult | cuddled | bottle | clean | crying | sleep |
| dummy | love | toys | sleep | bath | attention | nappy |

Task 2: Read the full passage out to an adult at home.

Activity adapted from Twinkl   Images from www.clipart-library.com
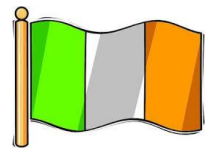
Social Studies Challenge

St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day (St. Patrick's Day) is a popular Spring festival celebrated by millions of people all around the world.

St Patrick was born in Wales around 386AD, when the Romans were still occupying parts of Britain, but he is remembered as the patron saint of Ireland. The day is a celebration of Irish history and culture.

> *Click here to read more about St. Patrick:*
> *https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/35831743*

This year St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated on Thursday March 17th.

> *Click here to watch an animated video:*
> *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OO-bw9m6U4*

Task:

Cut out each of the countries below and stick them down onto a piece of paper in the correct positions. Which country isn't included in the UK? Label each country. If you have internet access (or perhaps an atlas), look up the flags of each and draw them, labelling each flag appropriately.

Southern Ireland called Eire

Scotland
Northern Ireland
England
Wales

Activity and map images adapted from TES Clipart from www.clipart-library.com

Expressive Arts Challenge

Vivaldi: The Four Seasons

Antonio Vivaldi was an Italian composer who was born in the 17th century. He belonged to the **Baroque** period of music.

Vivaldi wrote more than 400 concertos (pieces of music) for various instruments but especially for violin.

One of his most famous works is called The Four Seasons. Which features Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Click here to watch the Thunder Jam Gang explore the music of Vivaldi:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bring-the-noise/thunder-jam-weather/zk6pxyc

Your task: is to draw the Spring movement of Vivaldi's Four Seasons just like the children in the video did. Draw the music on a piece of paper.

Click here to listen to the music: https://youtu.be/I-dYNttdgl0

Extension:
1. Can you hear the different instruments in the music? There are violins, viola, cellos, a double base and a harpsichord. Can you make out each one?
2. Do some research on one of the instruments. Which group of the orchestra does it belong to? What are the other groups? What is a conductor? etc.

Activity adapted from https://wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk/
Images from www.clipart-library.com