



**SPIRIT OF THE JAGUAR SUMMER SCHOOL**

[www.spiritofthejaguar.org.uk](http://www.spiritofthejaguar.org.uk)

**SCHOOL/GROUP:** Multiple Schools      **PHASE:** Cross Phase/Transition      **VENUE:** Knowsley CLCs

**KEY STAGE & YEAR:** Years 3 - 8      **CURRICULUM AREA:** ICT, Maths, Geography, science, Literacy, DT

**LINKS TO PLANS/NC:** CLC aims: 2, 3, 8 Obj: 9, 12, 14, EiC/CLC: SO2, 4/FA1, 2, 4      **DURATION:** 2 weeks  
ICT Strategy: CLA 1, 4, 6, EL 1, 2, ED 1, 5, 6, FS 1, 3  
EDP2 1a, b, c, d, 4, 6, 7

**CLC OBJECTIVES**

- Improve access to, and use of, the latest education technology for teachers, pupils and the community
- Increase attainment levels through the use of that technology
- Improve the quality of teaching and learning
- Act as test beds for innovation and new ways of working

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- To reinforce numeracy, literacy and science through 'real life' learning
- To provide an opportunity for children to explore the world around them both virtually and physically
- To improve speaking and listening skills through video conferencing and presentations
- To explore mathematics through creative activities

**THE PROJECT BRIEF**

The expedition team visits the Jaguar Ecological Reserve in the Pantanal region of Brazil to see Jaguars in the wild. They find out that much of the surrounding land is under threat from big landowners who want to drain the wetlands and cultivate Soya beans.

Executives from a major American Tour company are arriving in the area at the end of the week. The last chance for the wetlands is to convince the Americans to buy the land and set up an eco-tourism business. Our team has five days to draw up a plan... If they don't succeed, the land and its precious wildlife will be lost forever...

**Additional linked activities include:**

Tourism

- Design an "eco-friendly" resort
- Produce an illustrated tourist map of the area
- Draw up an itinerary for tourists
- Produce a marketing video or brochure
- A day in the life of a tourist guide

Social

- Design a school
- Prepare a development plan for Porto Joffre
- Find out about the history and people of the Pantanal
- Find out about the food and languages of the Pantanal
- A day in the life of a child in Porto Joffre

Conservation

- A day in the life of a Jaguar
- Find out about the animals and insects of the Pantanal
- Find out about the climate and flora of the Pantanal
- Find out about the threats to the Pantanal's environment
- Prepare a plan to regenerate Jaguar population

**DESCRIPTION**

Activities began with an interactive parents information session was held. This session was delivered by Simon Chapman, Author of Explorer Wanted! This formed part of the national Reading Voyage initiative in collaboration with Knowsley's Library Services - <http://www.knowsleyreading.org.uk>



Above: Knowsley Children prepare their project work and plan their next video conferencing session with the explorers.

Above: Damian Allen, Director of Children's Services presents gifts including a summer school T-Shirt to Mayor Clovis Martins, Porto Joffre.



Left: Parents, carers, grandparents, brothers and sisters watch as the groups present their findings for conservation, social and tourism to inform the future of the Pantanal. Groups await the verdict from our team of explorers in Brazil via the live link.



During the first two weeks of the summer holidays, students in Knowsley explored uncharted territory in Bolivia, battling to save the jaguar from extinction and chatting with the locals in the wetlands of Brazil – all without ever leaving Knowsley!

The students, all aged 10-13 took part in one of the most innovative and unusual Summer Schools ever as they used the latest technology to communicate with real life explorers and work on an in depth project to develop plans for sustainable tourism, conservation, and education including the development of a school in the Pantanal.

The programme took place across Knowsley's three City Learning Centres in Huyton, Kirkby and Whiston and Prescott, and included 'texting', emailing, satellite video conferencing with Knowsley's Director of Children's Services, Damian Allen, who was on a mission to support the development of a school in the Pantanal, Brazil.

The group also regularly communicated with explorer, author and teacher Simon Chapman, who was exploring unknown territory in 'The Lost City', Bolivia.

The children have been able to learn about the two different countries by sending their contacts out to research answers to their questions, track down and record the whereabouts of wild jaguars and introduce them to the locals, who they can talk to via the regular video conferencing sessions. The curriculum for the summer school focussed on many of the requirements for Key Stage 2 and 3 including literacy, geography, ICT, mathematics, design technology and art. The children were also given the opportunity to participate in dancing and sports.

On the final day, parents were keen to engage in the activities by attending presentations prepared by their children on ideas to develop sustainable tourism, designs for a school in the region and ways to preserve the wildlife and habitat of the Pantanal.

### **OUTCOMES/EVALUATION**

Damian Allen is a trustee of a Conservation Charity which supports the Jaguar Ecological Reserve (focus for our Spirit of the Jaguar Project) in the Pantanal, which promotes sustainable ecotourism and community development for the local people. The Porto Joffre area has no school and currently 40 children receive no education at all. The profile provided by the Knowsley Summer School project and the friendship gifts we brought from Knowsley in Damian's capacity as Director of Children's Services, enabled him to broker a meeting between the local mayor (Clovis Martins) and the president of the conservation charity, Douglas Trent. This resulted in the charity committing \$10,000 to contribute to building a school and a house for teachers with the local council agreeing to secure the land and provide two teachers. Furthermore, this deal prompted the local hotel owner to contribute an equal amount to provide another school further downstream.

"This was real development work in action involving Knowsley pupils making a real difference to the life chances of some children in Brazil" – Damian Allen, Director of Children's Services, Knowsley

A total of 162 children attended the summer schools over the two week period and these were some of the comments received from the children, parents and teachers....

"Found it very interesting. My children were eager to get to the CLC each day. We would be interested in any other projects in the future." - Parent

"My son really enjoyed this summer school was really enthusiastic and interested. He has learnt so much and he tells me all the facts he has learnt. Can't stop talking about it." - Parent

"The Jaguar Summer School was different to the things I usually do in the summer school holidays. I thought it was very good and I hope I come back next year." – Year 7 pupil

"It was brilliant and I want to do it again and again week after week. It was fabulous, brilliant and every good describing word ever." – Year 5 pupil

"They have learnt a number of new ICT skills which they have been able to use to enhance their project. A very interesting week and a very lively bunch of youngsters who achieved much throughout the week. A very interesting concept!" – Teacher

This programme is being followed up by a week of extension activities during October half term. Further details of this programme, including examples of work can be found at [www.spiritofthejaguar.org.uk](http://www.spiritofthejaguar.org.uk).