How has Italian Culture Influenced Britain?

Before we dived into our research on Italian culture and its influence here in the UK, we looked at a map of Italy in order to name and compare its physical geography.

During this first step we looked at the location of Italy and the UK within the continent Europe and the two mountain ranges and the famed River Po, the surrounding seas and the different regions within Italy
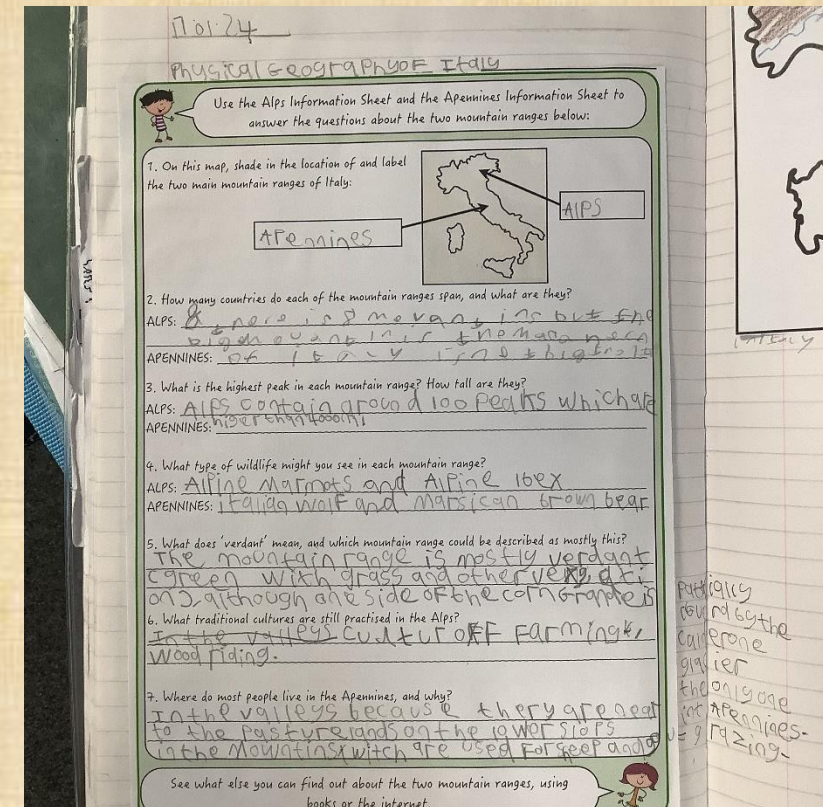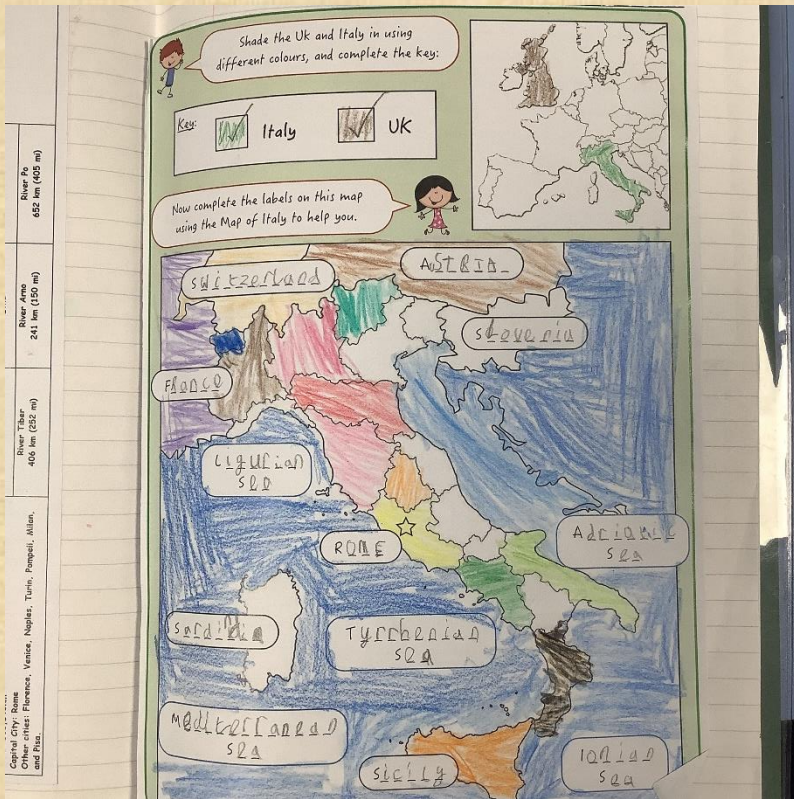
After moving on to human geography and delving deep into the main cities of Italy we considered what life would be like as both a tourist, and a local!

We wrote postcards home (as tourists in Italy) and created tour guides for Pompeii, persuasive writing and full of historic information on what this great city used to be, it's current state, as well as further details on volcanoes and how/why they erupt, referencing the Mount Vesuvius eruption of 79 CE.
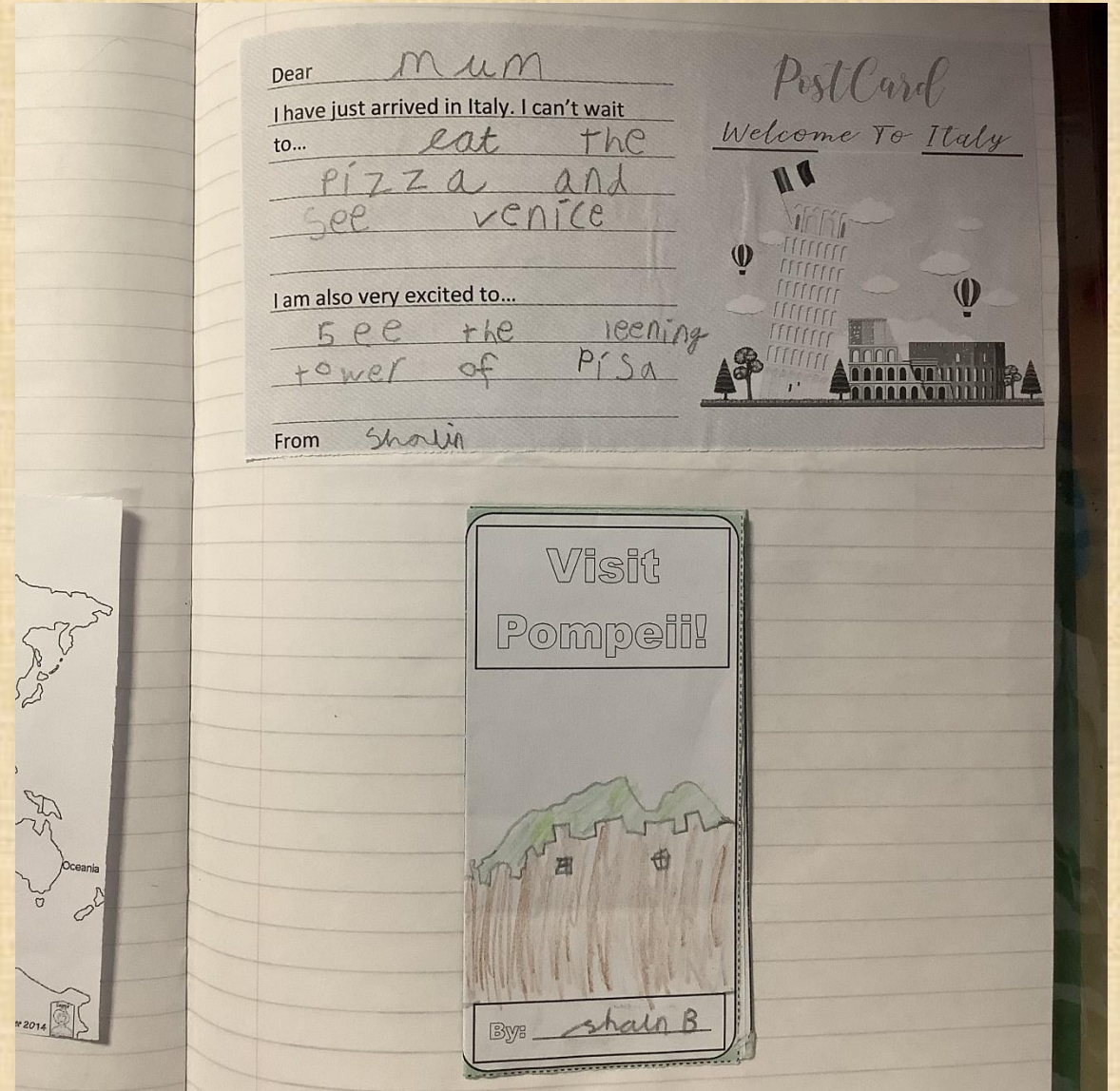
Looking even further into city life of the Italians and working in groups, we created some fantastic, knowledge-rich posters on each city which we then presented to our classmates before putting them on display in the classroom.
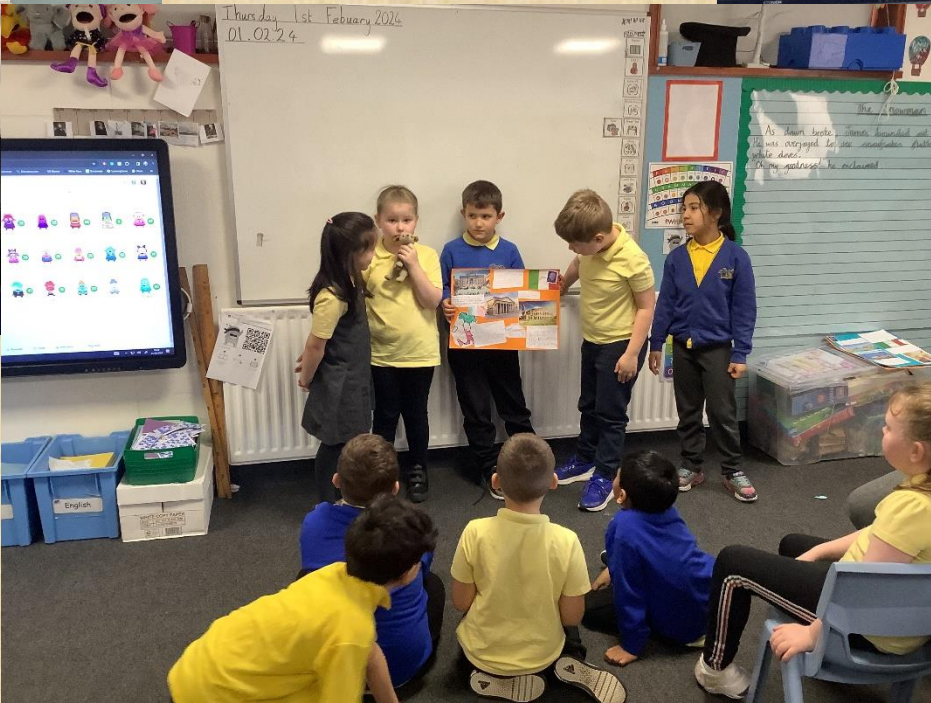
Working again in groups, we moved on from geographical landmarks and into six key aspects of Italian Culture; Food & Drink, Fashion, Religion, Music, Family, and Carnivals. Following on from informative and inspiring videos, a substantial yet compact slideshow and plenty of classroom discussion, we began the task of highlighting and reiterating key information from each of the six aspects we had looked at, including some very specific 'culture question cards'. Some of these questions include, how did the margarita pizza get its name, in which city did opera begin, how often is Milan Fashion week held, and what is the carnival of Venice famous for, just to name a few!

Our deep dive into Italian food, religion, music and fashion were of particular interest of how they relate to British life.
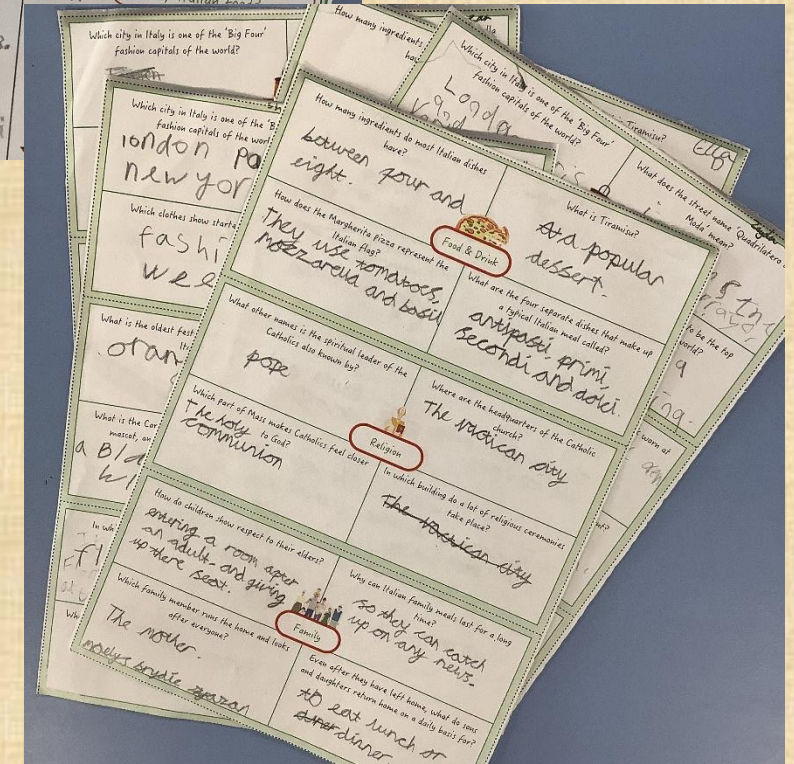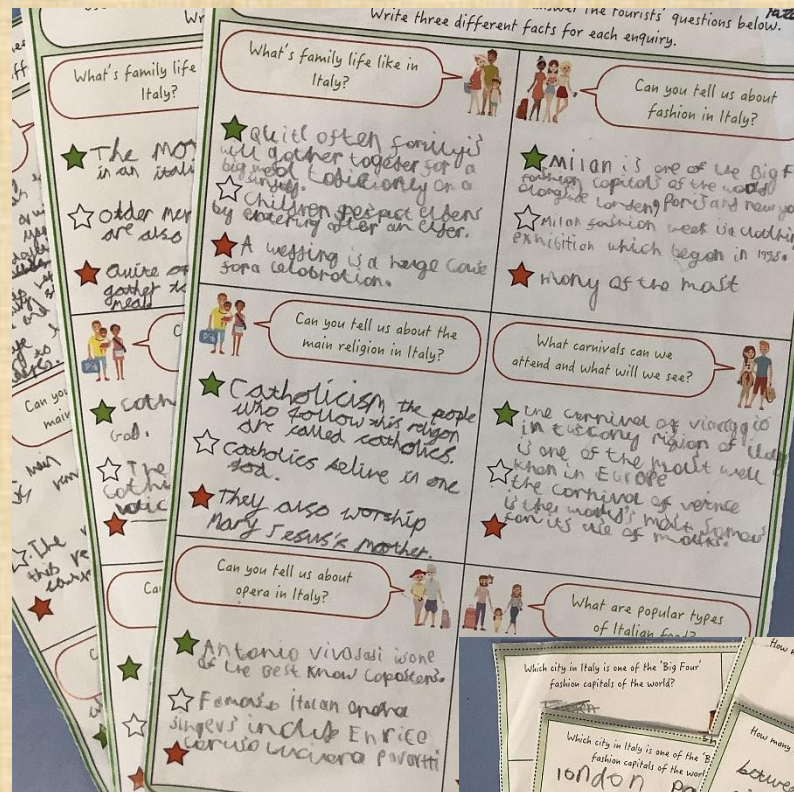
In order to break down our abundance of newly acquired information and present it in a more agreeable manner, we practised our summarising skills before summarising the six aspects of Italian culture we had studied. This included looking at our own home city of Newcastle and three of the six Italian cities. This led to some interesting conversations about differences and similarities, as well as the class written summaries shown below.

Monday, 4th March 2024

Finding Key Information and Summarising

We looked at a tourist information sheet about Newcastle and as a class we highlighted the key bits of information and then summarised the information. We then put this into practise by researching Italian cities, highlighting the key information and writing/verbalising a summary. We then came together to combine and check our summarising skills. Below are the summaries for Newcastle, and three Italian cities.

Newcastle is thought of as the capital and symbol of the North East of England and got its name from a wooden, Norman castle built in 1080. It was famous for engineering, wool, coal, and shipbuilding.

Rome was founded by the Romans and is the capital city of Italy. It is an extremely popular tourist destination with many famous sights, such as the Colosseum, and the Trevi Fountain which is one of the most famous fountains in the world.

Venice is famous for its islands, canals, and bridges and the main way to get around is by boat. It has over 3 million visitors a year meaning it is often overcrowded, including the main canal which is called The Grand Canal.

Pisa is located in central Italy in Tuscany, and is most famous for its Leaning Tower which took 199 years to build, is at a $3.99°$ tilt, and may one day fall over.

Following a visit and Q&A with Ashleigh, a TUI travel agent we looked at some holiday brochures for Italy and talked about why people may choose to visit Italy, how they travel there from the UK as well as how and why these brochures use persuasive writing.

Having learnt, manipulated and reiterated this incredibly large amount of information, we got to work summarising the six aspects of Italian culture, choosing the key points that are of particular interest to us as UK residents. This would be our script for our videos!
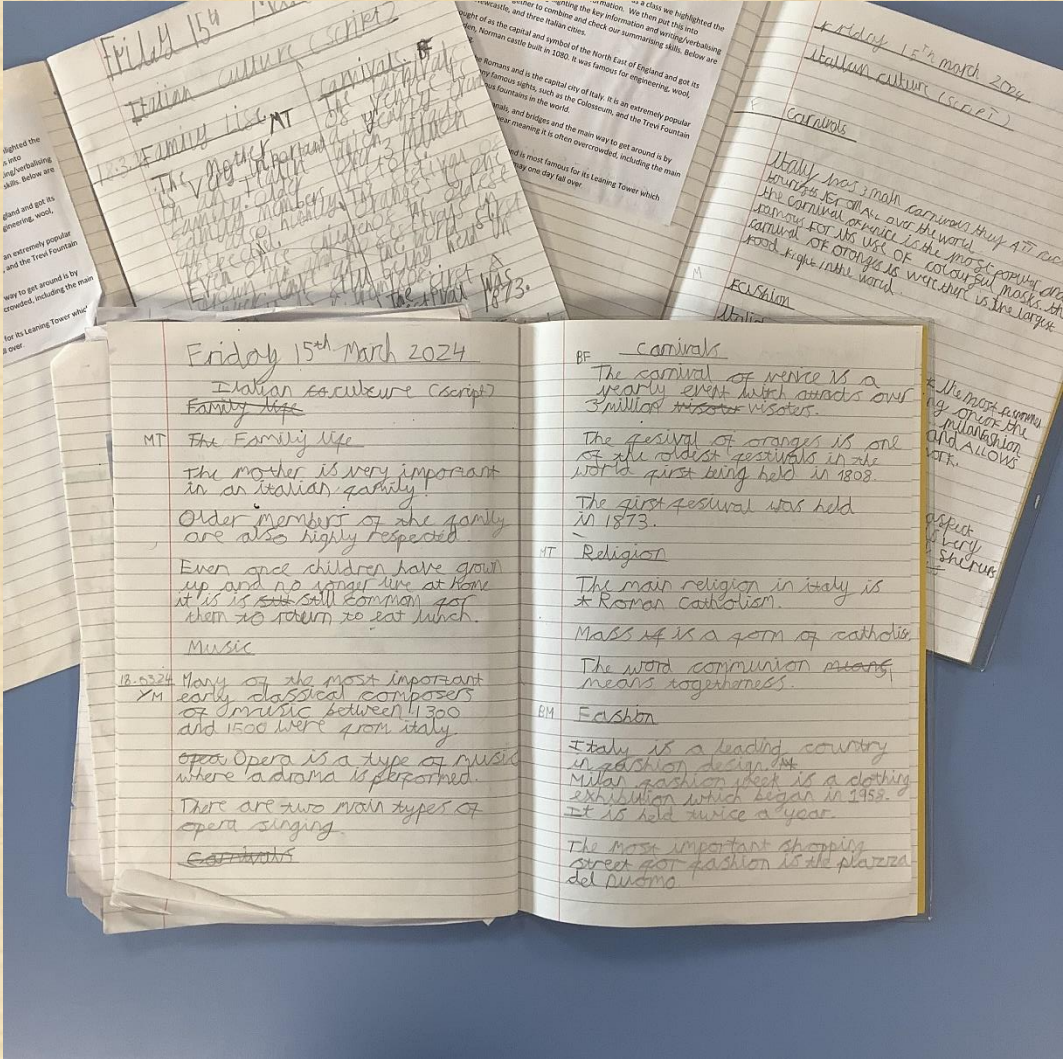
Equipped with the skills and knowledge, we put our oracy skills to the test and acted as travel agents to create entertaining and persuasive videos, detailing the different aspects of Italian culture. We used out ICT skills and MovieMaker to edit and further enhance these videos.

Please see below for screenshots.

FOOD AND DRINKS