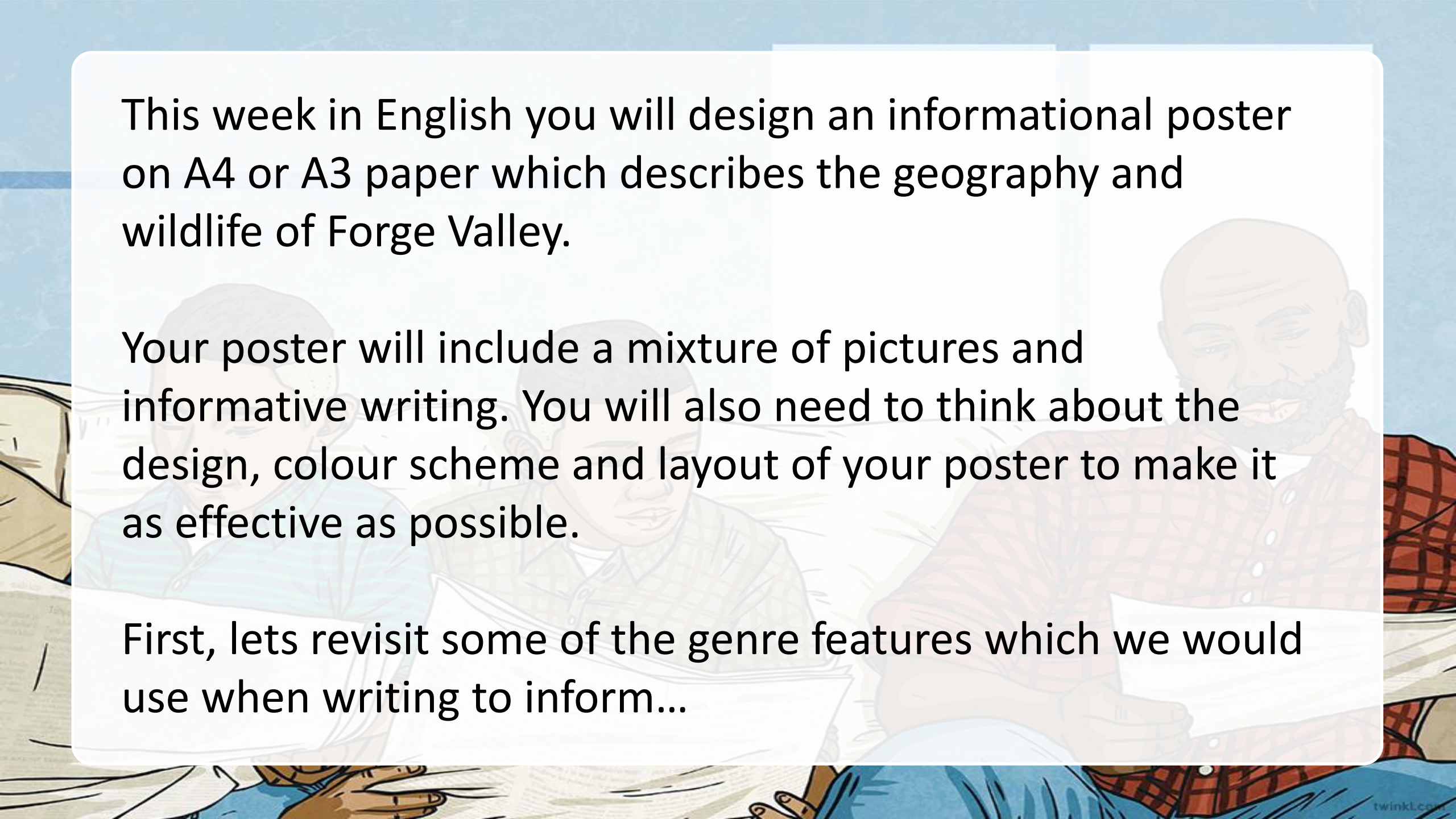


An aerial photograph of a lush green valley. A paved road winds through the landscape, curving from the bottom left towards the top right. The hills are covered in vibrant green grass, and the lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting with long shadows. The text "Forge Valley" is centered over the road in a white, sans-serif font, with a thin white underline beneath the letters.

Forge Valley

An illustration of three students sitting at a table, looking at papers. The student on the left is a girl with dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt. The student in the middle is a boy with dark hair, wearing a brown plaid shirt. The student on the right is a boy with a beard and a bald head, wearing a red plaid shirt. They are all looking at papers on the table. The background is a light blue wall.

This week in English you will design an informational poster on A4 or A3 paper which describes the geography and wildlife of Forge Valley.

Your poster will include a mixture of pictures and informative writing. You will also need to think about the design, colour scheme and layout of your poster to make it as effective as possible.

First, let's revisit some of the genre features which we would use when writing to inform...

Writing to Inform

Writing to inform means that you want your reader to be informed by what you've written. You might be informing them about a specific topic or a particular event. You'll need to keep your reader hooked by providing them with interesting information.

There are different examples of informative writing, such as:

- information texts;
- biographies;
- newspaper articles.



Can you think of some writing that you've read recently which informed you about something? What features did the author use to convey the information?



The most important part of writing to inform is making sure that you are giving your reader information about something. To do this effectively, you'll need to use a range of different features.

Adverbials

Adverbials can help your reader to understand the information. Use adverbials of time to show chronology.

After that, During her time at university,

Subordinate Clauses

Subordinate clauses can be used to add more detail or vital information. Try varying their location within a sentence.

Although she loved Poland, Marie knew that she had to leave.

Parenthesis

Use parenthesis to add in extra information. Parenthesis can be punctuated using commas, dashes or brackets.

Buddy – **a four-year-old greyhound** – has found his forever home.

Colons and Semi-Colons

Use colons and semi-colons to mark clauses within your writing.

Capybaras are excellent swimmers: they can stay submerged for several minutes at a time.

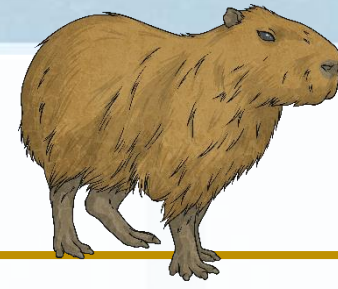
Can You Spot the Features?

Have a look at the information text about Capybaras. Can you spot any of the features below?

- parenthesis
- subordinate clauses
- adverbials
- colons and semi-colons



Information Text



Capybaras

At just under 1.5 metres long, capybaras are the largest rodent on Earth. These impressive mammals are closely related to guinea pigs and are often said to look like giant versions of them.

Where Do They Live?

Capybara's are mostly found in their native South America although a small population have also been discovered living in Florida. Being semiaquatic – living both on land and in water – capybaras have long, brittle fur which dries quickly. As a result of their webbed toes and well-adapted bodies, capybaras are excellent swimmers: they can stay submerged for several minutes at a time.

Predators

Although they are not considered to be endangered, capybaras have a number of predators. These include pumas and jaguars. When they are young and small, capybaras are also at risk from large snakes, birds and foxes.

Which features has the author used to inform you about capybaras?

Writing to Inform

Whether you're writing an information text, a biography or a newspaper article, your writing needs to inform your reader. Use this mat to help you to include clear information within your writing.

Fronted Adverbials

After discovering...
Afterwards,
Amazingly,
At university,
Incredibly,
Just south of...
Last month,
Last year,
Often,
Previously,
Recently,
Since then,
Unexpectedly,
Upon the arrival of...
When they saw...
Yesterday,

Important Punctuation

ABC Use capital letters for proper nouns.
; Use semi-colons to join related clauses.
: Use colons to join related clauses.
- , () Use dashes, commas and brackets for parenthesis.

Subordinating Conjunctions



Research

You will need to research and find out information about Forge Valley to include in your informational poster.

Research **3** different areas to include in your poster (this could be a mix of wildlife and the geography of the area).

To support you, here is a list of wildlife in Forge Valley that you could research:

Birds

Merlin
Herons
Treecreeper
Nuthatch
Sparrow Hawk
Golden Plover
Redstart
Wood warbler

Wildflowers and plants

Enchanter's nightshade
Wild garlic
Dog's mercury
Orchids
Wood anemone
Sanicle

Trees

Ash
Wych elm
Sycamore
Hazel
Field maple

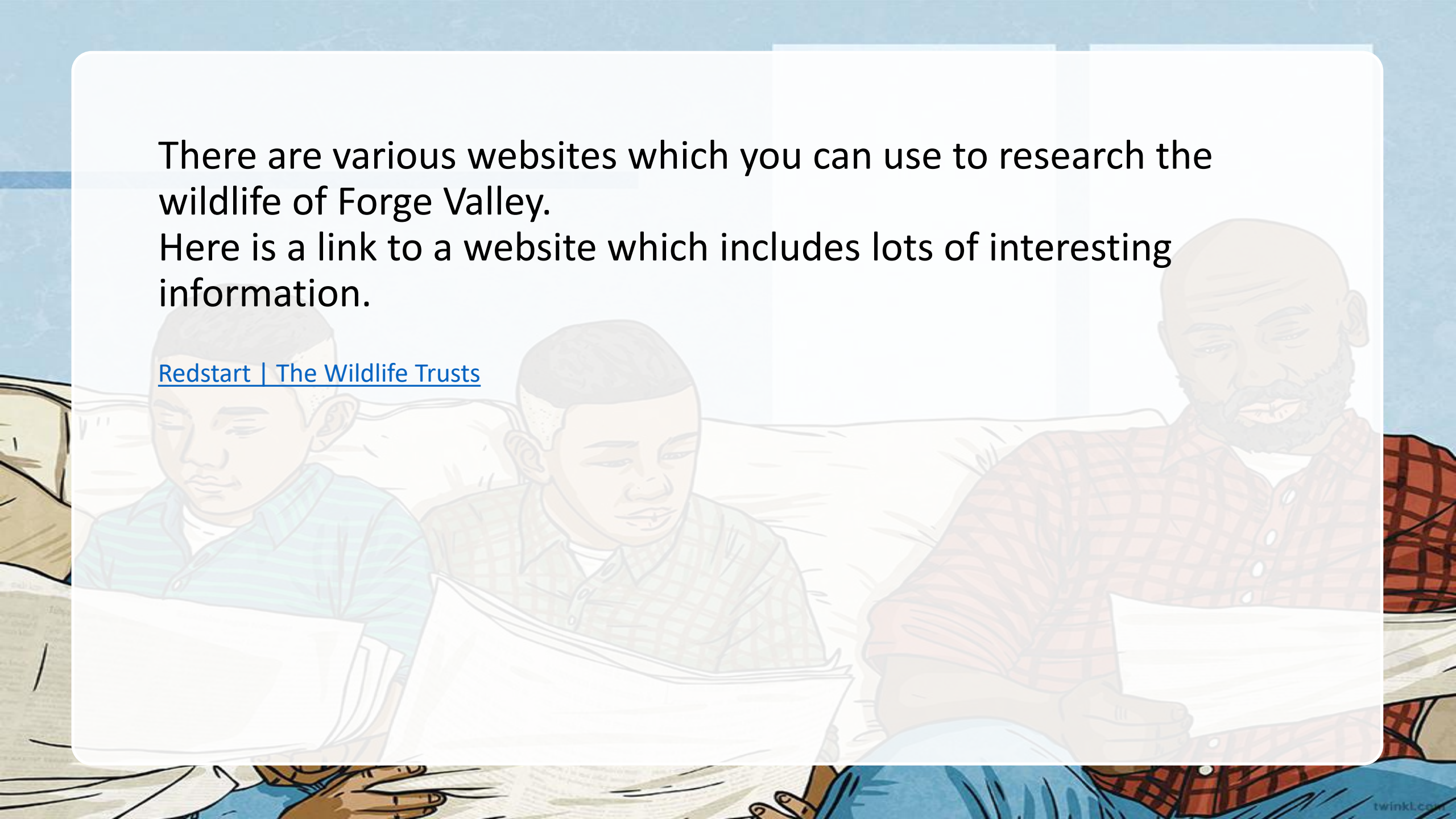
Other creatures

Deer
Crayfish
Otters
Trout

There are various websites which you can use to research the wildlife of Forge Valley.

Here is a link to a website which includes lots of interesting information.

[Redstart | The Wildlife Trusts](#)




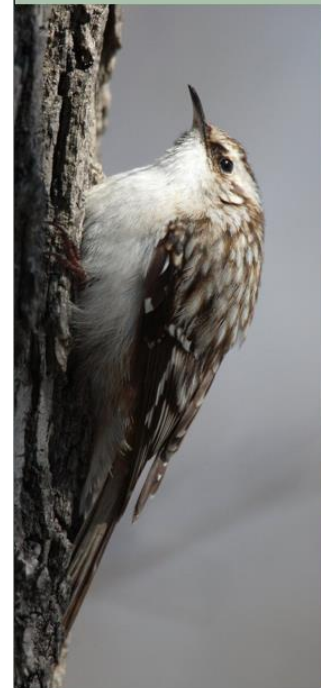

Here is an example which you can use to support you when designing your poster. I've tried to balance the amount of text to pictures, and I've thought carefully about the colour of the text box backgrounds. Finding appropriate pictures which fit my design was also important. I've split my poster into three sections, with the final section left unfinished.

You will need to include a title for your information text, and you may want an introductory paragraph to introduce your poster.

The poster does not need to be completed on a computer; this is merely an example.

I would break this lesson into separate parts, such as research, poster planning and finally designing your poster.

Best of luck and I'm really looking forward to seeing your poster designs!

<h2>Wildlife in Forge Valley</h2>		
<p>TEEMING WITH WILDLIFE, THIS BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER DERWENT PROVIDES A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF THIS ANCIENT WOODLAND. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE LIVING ORGANISMS YOU MIGHT FIND THERE.</p>	<p>THE OTTER IS A MEMBER OF THE WEASEL FAMILY (<i>MUSTELIDAE</i>) AND ARE 2 TO 6 FEET LONG. THEY ARE CARNIVOROUS MAMMALS AND THEY HAVE A DIET OF FISH AND INVERTEBRATES.</p>	
		
	<p>ORCHIDACEA ARE A DIVERSE AND WIDESPREAD FAMILY OF FLOWERING PLANTS, WITH BLOOMS THAT ARE OFTEN COLOURFUL AND FRAGRANT.</p>	