

15 September

The morning: Natural History Museum or Science Museum

Today was our last day in London, but we had still much to see. We caught the Tube from Wembley Central and arrived at the Tube station “South Kensington”. Just in front of this station, we listened to our classmates Henryk and Max, who were giving their presentations about the Natural History Museum and Science Museum. After that, we split into two groups, and each group visited another museum. In our case, it was the Natural History Museum.

The Natural History Museum was established in 1881 and is a museum that exhibits a vast range of specimens from various segments of natural history.

The museum is home to life and earth science specimens comprising some 80 million items within five main collections: botany, entomology, mineralogy, paleontology and zoology. The museum is particularly famous for its exhibition of dinosaur skeletons and ornate architecture—sometimes dubbed a cathedral of nature—both exemplified by the large *Diplodocus* cast (“Dippy”) that dominated the vaulted central hall before it was replaced in 2017 with the skeleton of a blue whale hanging from the ceiling.

They welcome a yearly 1,197,000 visitors with always new and changing exhibitions, like the return of the *Diplodocus* to the museum after its Britain Tour, in an extra room.

The museum is subdivided into four zones: orange, blue, green and red.

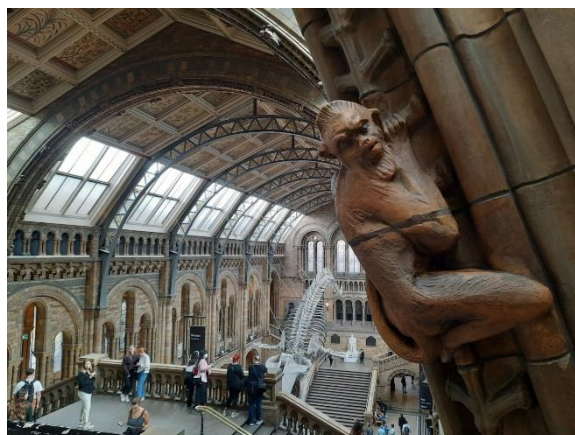
The orange zone enables the public to see science at work and presents a Wildlife Garden, the Darwin Centre and the Zoology Spirit Building.

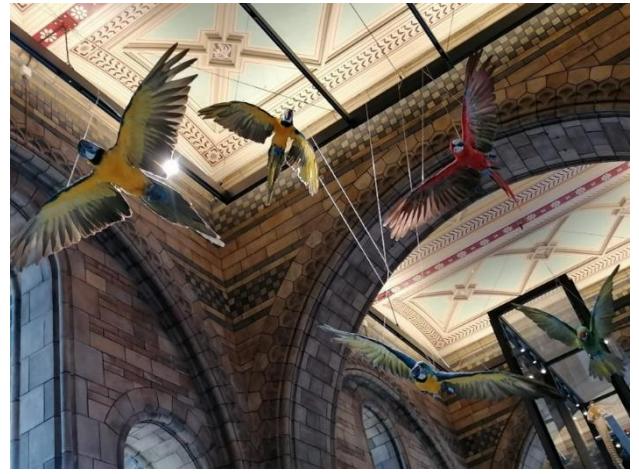
To the left of the Hintze Hall, the blue zone explores the diversity of life on the planet with stunning exhibitions of dinosaurs, fish, amphibians and reptiles, human biology, invertebrates, and mammals. It also has the treasures of the Cadogan Gallery.

The green zone follows the theme of the evolution of the planet, with exhibitions about reptiles, birds, “creepy crawlies”, and fossils. It also includes the Anning Rooms (exclusive space for members and patrons of the museum) and the East Pavilion (space for changing Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition).

The red zone is a gallery themed around the changing history of the Earth. You can visit galleries like the Earth Hall (*Stegosaurus* skeleton), Human Evolution, the Earth’s Treasury, the Restless Surface, From the Beginning and Volcanoes and Earthquakes.

Jennifer, Anna L.





We arrived at the Science Museum at around 10 o'clock.

In the first room we entered, we saw steam engines and boilers, in the next room some spacecrafts and many informative texts about space. After that, there were some historic cars and a plane. We quickly spotted the welcome hall where you could grab something to eat.

Then down into the basement we went. There were old radios, air vents, a computer with "Pong" (which sadly didn't work when we were there) and much more.

On the first floor, we saw medicine, vaccine development and human bones. We also found a little game where you need to stop a disease by vaccinating people and putting them in quarantine. After that we went to the café located on the 3rd floor and ordered a milkshake and ice cream.

We planned to go on a flying simulator, where you sit inside a capsule which can freely rotate 360°, but sadly we needed our group ticket which only our teacher had and there wasn't enough time to go look for him. The same went for the Wonderlab with lots of interactive activities which we sadly also couldn't enter. We just proceeded to order milkshakes again which we consumed on our way to the meeting point, where we then met up with the rest of the group.

Janus, Tadeus



The afternoon

After the visits to the main two museums in the earlier stages of the afternoon, we split up into different groups. One group went to the Imperial War Museum, another returned to the Natural History Museum, and another one went to Buckingham Palace, visited Chinatown, and did some shopping. Eventually, everyone met up again at Leicester Square.



The Imperial War Museum

Marlene, Philipp, Paul, Hugo and Markus decided to visit the Imperial War Museum. The Imperial War Museum includes exhibitions about the First and Second World War with information, vehicles and interesting facts. There is also other information, for example, about the Falklands War. Hugo was a private guide for Philipp and Marlene through the museum while Paul bought himself pilot glasses and a fur hat.

The Imperial War Museum is a paradise for persons who are interested in military history. We were glad to see it. Hugo was so excited and happy to see the museum that we had to fear he wouldn't come back with us. Thanks to Mr. Eick for this great opportunity!

Markus, Hugo



***Wicked* – the musical**

Hey everyone! We visited the famous musical “Wicked” today. It is the number 1 musical in London at the moment and has had a lot of guests. The story is about the life of the Witch of Oz and her friends. Mainly it was about friendship and love. As they said in the musical often, “Because I knew you, I have been changed for good”.

Elphaba (the witch) wasn’t accepted by the villains, but her best friend called Glinda supported her, which strengthened their friendship. Elphaba fell in love with Glinda’s fiancé, and he felt this way too.

In addition to this you could also follow the plot well and there were English subtitles, too.

At the end all were happy and the spectators clapped as loud as they could.

The sound effects, costumes, light effects and of course the actors with their voices were breathtaking!!! The music and songs fitted perfectly, and it was a magical experience.

Betty, Lydia, Johanna M.

