

most interesting thing there were the Dodo bird and other extinct birds like the passenger pigeons. We went to the Arthropod galleries and the earth galleries that had a lot of rocks and an earthquake simulator. We also saw petrified trees and a slice of a giant sequoia tree that was over 1500 years old. The last thing we saw was the display about human evolution. We left the museum and walked back to our friends. On the way we went past Buckingham Palace, the Queen Victoria monument and the Princess Diana Memorial fountain. We knew the Queen was home because the flag was up at the palace. From there we went for a quick visit to the British Museum. I saw the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon that my Dad says are controversial because the Greek government would like them back! We saw a giant granite fist and a bronze cat. I bought a clock that runs on fruit juice, lemons or vinegar and some magnetic marbles.

Today we went to the Natural History Museum. We saw a lot of dinosaur skeletons, a few models of dinosaurs and robotic dinosaurs. There was a life size T.Rex robot that had realistic movements, it was a little weird and it freaked out little kids. (If a T.Rex fell down while running it would have probably killed it!) We saw the mammal hall, which has whales, elephants, giraffes, hippos and a variety of other creatures including extinct mammals like mammoths and a giant sloth. They even had a blue whale and a sperm whale skeleton. Then we went into the bird hall. The

Day 6 November 29

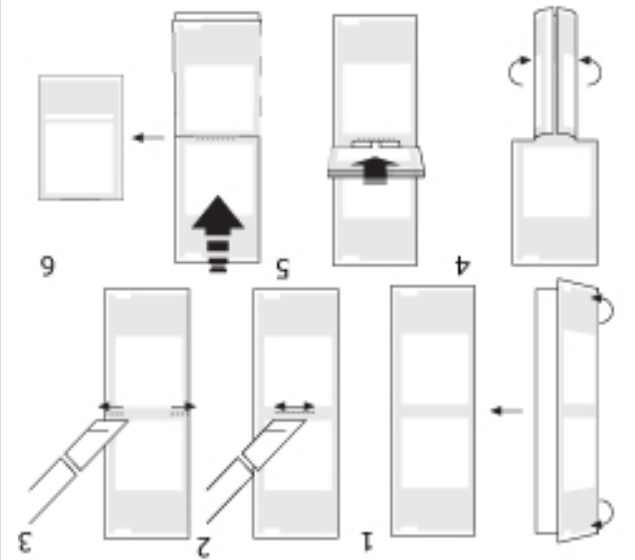


Today was the big 7 hour plane ride. On the plane we watched Harry Potter and read books. I also did my homework. We left Toronto at 6pm and arrived in London at 6am. We took the underground into the city. We went for a short walk to Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden and Piccadilly Circus. It was a very long day!

Day 1 November 23 & 24

London Journal 2007

Maggie Hunter

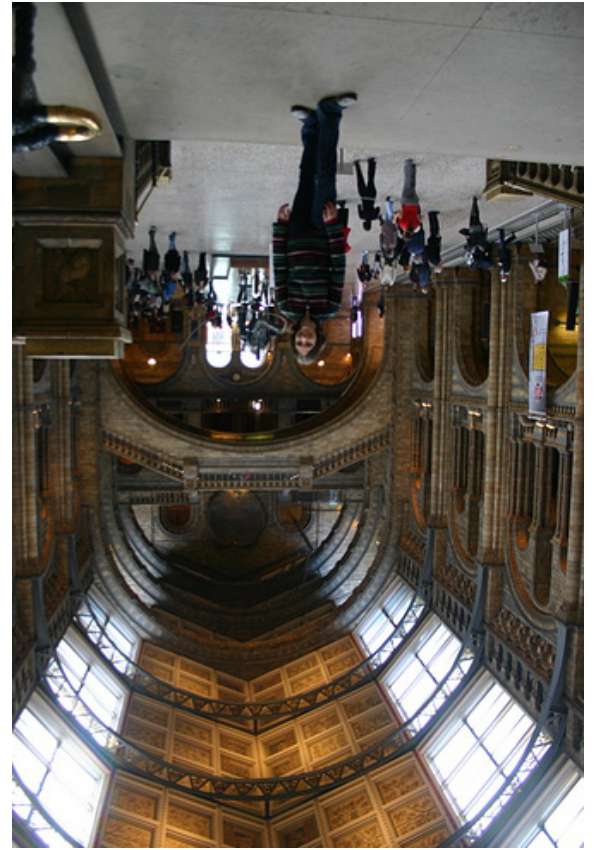


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London Journal 2007
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Day 2 November 25

Today we went for a very long walk. First we went to the Columbia Road flower market on a double decker bus to look around. The flower market sold crafts, flowers, plants and even trees. The flower market was on the street in an older part of town (I bought an odd cup with an English setter on it that had its head for a handle). Then we went to Brick Lane, which has a flea market. One of the buildings is the Black Eagle Brewery that was built in 1669. From there we went through Spitalfields to see Christ Church that was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor and was built in 1729. After that we went for a walk that took us threw narrow streets and then went to St. Pauls cathedral. It was designed by Christopher Wren and was built on the site of a cathedral that was destroyed in the great fire of London. The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. It destroyed almost the entire city and burned for almost a week. St. Pauls took 40 years to build. There were 4 St. Pauls on the same site before. The first (604-675) was destroyed by fire. The second (685-962) was destroyed by the Vikings. The third (962-1087) was destroyed by fire. The fourth (1087-1666) had the tallest spire ever built (it was destroyed by lightning in 1561) and was completely burned



in the great fire in 1666. After visiting St. Pauls, we walked home through Smithfield and by the old meat market that has two giant griffins over the entrance.



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Day 3 November 26

Today we walked down to see Big Ben. From there we walked along the Victoria Embankment next to the Thames River. We saw Cleopatra's Needle and then crossed the river to Southbank over Blackfriars Bridge. We had our lunch next to Shakespeares Globe Theatre and the Tate Modern art gallery. Then we kept walking along the river and crossed back over the Tower Bridge to the Tower of London. We were going to go skating at the rink next to the Tower but it was 12 pounds each to skate! We took the tube back to Charing Cross Station, which is right next to Trafalgar Square. Then we went into the National Gallery. There were a lot of paintings with severed heads (mostly Salome with the Head of John the Baptist). We also saw Leonardo da Vincis Virgin of the Rocks. We went to a big book store in Piccadilly Circus where I bought a book called White Giraffe and my Dad got a book called Necropolis: London and Its Dead. From there we went for dinner in Chinatown.



family) and past one of the large griffins that guards the entrance to the old City of London. We took the underground to Heathrow Airport. Our flight leaves London at 7:00pm and well be in Toronto by 10:00pm (an 8 hour flight but looks like only 3 hours because of the time change). I think this was a great trip Im looking forward to coming again because there is still so much to see.

-Maggie Hunter

Today is our last day. We went to the Borough Market, which is underneath the train tracks at the south end of London Bridge. We saw giant brownies, lots of cheese, sausages and meat. For lunch we had sausage on a bun (my dad had wild boar). They also sold game (deer, pheasant, rabbit and ducks), which I thought was gross and weird. From the market, we walked back home across the Millennium Bridge (which made people sick to walk on when it was first built), past St. Pauls, the Kings Wardrobe (a group of buildings that use to be the store houses for the royal

Day 8 December 1



Day 4 November 27

Today we walked up Tottenham Court Road to Regents Park. Tottenham Court Road is a really busy street with a lot of electronics stores. We walked through Regents Park where the London Zoo is. The park was mostly grass with hedges and flower gardens, lots of fountains and cafs. There were boys playing rugby, private school kids at recess and lots of dogs. We went by the London Zoo (it was too expensive to go in as we only had an hour free). We saw one ostrich through the fence. We walked back to the underground and went over Clerkenwell Road. From there we walked to the studio so my Dad could do some work with Proboscis. Proboscis is a group of artists (Giles, Alice and Orlagh) who are working with my Dad who runs an organization called Render at the University of Waterloo. While they were meeting I did some sketches, built a model of a house, worked on the computer and ate blackberry candies. We took the bus to Foyles bookstore where I got a book called the Horrible History of England. We had Thai food for dinner.



Day 7 November 30

Today I spent the morning at the proboscis studio. My dad was meeting with a bunch of other artists and writers to talk about book projects they were doing. While they were doing that, I built a paper model of my idea of an eco-house. I designed it with solar panels, trees and garden for growing food. The house was small so it would cost less to heat. In the afternoon with Alice and Clara to this really neat park that had a flying-fox (zip cord) and a circular swing that spins and a very large slide. The park was neat because it was fun for a 3 year old, an 11 year old and an adult. Then we went and each of us got a pizza, even Clara who is 3 and I was quite surprised that she wanted the same pizza as me (broccoli, sausage and olives

In the evening my dad took me to a really great concert at the church of St. Martins-In-the-Field, which is on Trafalgar Square. It was a candlelit concert of violin concertos by Bach and Vivaldi. The musicians were great and the church was very old. After the concert we had a drink in the crypt where they use to bury bodies! Yuck!



Day 5 November 28

Today we went to Greenwich on a boat that took us down the Thames River. We started at Big Ben and on the way we passed the London Eye, Tower of London, Tower Bridge, London Bridge, Blackfriars Bridge, St. Pauls and lots of other places. When we got there we went for a walk through a park to the Royal Observatory. The observatory is at zero longitude (also called the Greenwich Line or the Prime Meridian). I stood exactly at zero at 1 o'clock, which is Greenwich mean time. At 1 o'clock a large red ball on the top of the observatory dropped. At the observatory

we saw telescopes, clocks, compasses and other tools for looking at stars. We got top climb up metal spiral stairs into a big dome with a large telescope. After that, we went back to the town of Greenwich and the Church of St. Alfege. We looked around the old graveyard. All of the stones were around the edges and the cemetery was now a park with a playground (I did not go on the playground). Then we had lunch and before taking the boat back to London we looked around the University of Greenwich, it used to be the Royal Navy College. We went into the Painted Hall. Its called the painted hall for good reason because the elaborately painted with people and sailors. The last thing we did was go to Muji, a Japanese design store.

