

Our Trip to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History



Written by

Ja'far & Fatimah

BOOKS by kids, for kids

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January 12, 2008

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Ja'far (Age 8) &
Fatimah (Age 7)

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Dedicated to...

Our entire family.

We love you all and wanted to share our
trip with you; hope you like it!



Our Blue Van

Then it was time to go. When we left the Museum we fed the birds outside with the bread from the lunch we had packed. As we fed the birds, we watched all of the people walking in the streets.

Baba took us with him to get the van because we parked far away. Mama and the babies waited in front of the museum. Along the way, Baba showed us a place where people were skating on the ice.

When Baba brought the van up in front of the museum we all got in and said good-bye to the museum...but we'll be back again soon insha-Allah!



The outside of the
National Museum of Natural History

Our family decided to go to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. one cold Saturday morning in January.

We went in our blue van to see the museum. Our mother and father thought we should go to the museum to learn more about Allah's creation and the things we are learning in our science lessons.

We enjoyed visiting the museum so much, that we think every family in the world should go there!



The Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Finally, we all went into the Photographic Gallery where there are beautiful pictures of nature.

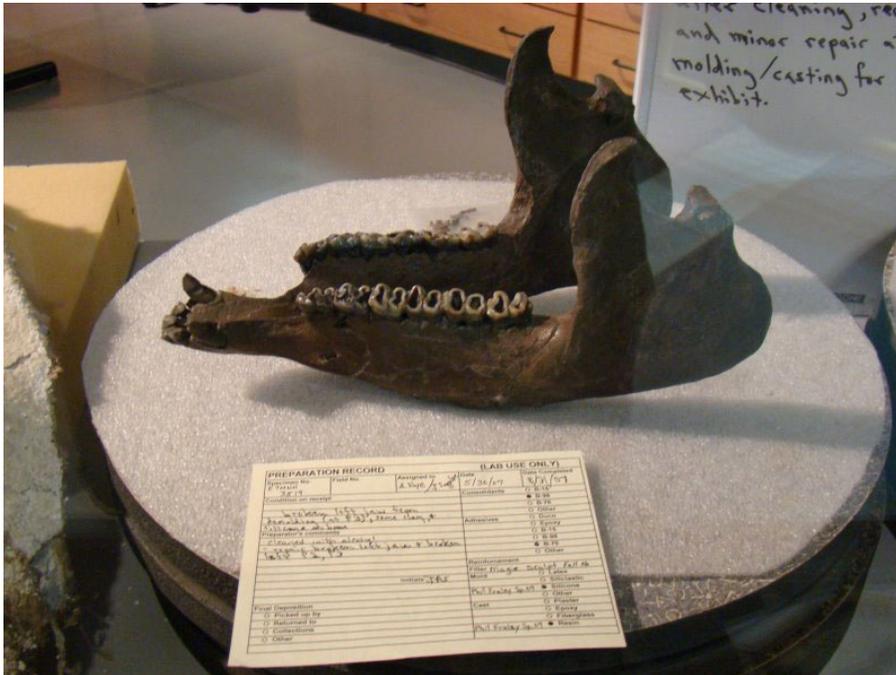
We saw pictures of huge brown mountains, the shining ocean, dark green forests, and an icy blue glacier that is in Canada.



Glacier

The first thing we saw when we came in the museum lobby was a huge gray elephant. Fatimah was scared because she thought it was alive, but Ja'far was excited.

The elephant had long ears like a palm tree. It had smooth white teeth called tusks. The elephant had a big head, a long tale, a thick neck, a long nose called a trunk, and rough skin.



A fossil in the Fossil Lab

When we finished in the Gem Gallery, we went to the Insect Zoo. There, we saw a poisonous snake. It was red and black colored.

We also saw hundreds of crickets in a cave creaking and jumping in and out from the little lamp with a hole in it, that was their house.

The part we loved the most was being able to climb inside the Termite Mound, and using the microscope to look at real termites!

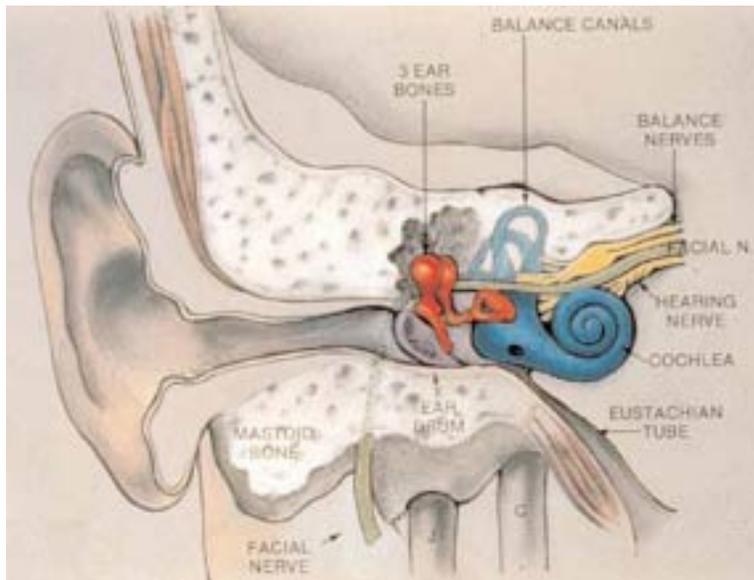


Termite Mound

Next, we went to the Dinosaur Gallery through the arch on the right side of the lobby.

We saw many dinosaurs like the T. Rex with its sharp teeth and terrible claws and the Brachiosaurus with its super long neck. We learned that the dinosaurs' hard bones are called fossils.

The part we liked best was seeing the Fossil Lab, where the scientists put fossils together.



Special Ear Bones

Next, we saw a giant ball made of quartz from China and a piece of sandstone from France that looked like a HUGE white noodle.

We also saw many different kinds of minerals like Pyrite, Cat's Eye, and Magnetite.

We learned that the different atoms in each mineral make it a different color.



Pyrite



Cat's Eye



Magnetite

Next, we went to the Mammal Gallery where we learned how to identify the three characteristics of mammals.

1. They feed their babies milk.
2. They have special ear bones.
3. They have hair.

We saw many different animals like a big black gorilla, a brown walrus with long white whiskers on his face, and a blue whale hanging from the ceiling.



The Hope Diamond

Now Fatimah was very excited because we were going to the Gem Gallery next.

The first thing we saw was the Hope Diamond. The diamond was in a glass case. It was dark blue with small white diamonds all around it.

There was a policeman there, who was in charge of watching the diamond. Ja'far liked the policeman.