Coming Close To Nature:

Natural History Museum, London

Jasmine Jaim

WHILE entering the Natural History Museum, I said to my grandmother (a retired school teacher of England), "Look! I don't like animals or such things! So, I am not going to spend much time in here!" Just after completing the sentence, I looked through the way in and found a giant skeleton of a dinosaur at the fantastic cathedral-like structured central hall. I simply shouted, "Wow! I will have to see all these...."



The Natural History Museum first opened its doors to the public in 1881, but its origins traces back to more than 250 years. It all started when physician and collector of natural curiosities, Sir Hans Sloane, left his extensive collection to the nation in 1753. Originally his specimens formed part of the British Museum, but as other collections were added, including specimens collected by botanist Joseph Banks on his 1768-1771 voyage with Captain James Cook, the natural history elements needed their own home.

The Museum's Central Hall forms a fantastic backdrop to some of the highlights of the Museum's collections including that Diplodocus Dinosaur skeleton. This dinosaur was one of the longest land animals ever to live. However, it seemed to me that from the grand staircase a magnificent, substantial marble statue of Charles Darwin was overlooking the central hall. Besides, at the very top of the hall I found a section of trunk from the enormous giant sequoia tree (biggest living things). This tree was over 1,300 years old when it was felled!

I found that the museum was divided into different zones. In the Green Zone I discovered amazing facts about life, the planet, our environment and evolution. Of this zone, in Fossil Marine Reptiles Section we uncovered what was going on in