

Hedgehog and Squirrel Class Visit to Tring Museum

Our visit to Tring Natural History Museum provided a high-quality enrichment experience that deepened pupils' curriculum learning through first-hand exploration and expert-led workshops. Pupils were highly engaged and demonstrated excellent behaviour, curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the visit. Activities were carefully matched to pupils' age and stage, supporting both EYFS and KS1 objectives in science, geography and understanding the world. Children developed subject-specific vocabulary, observational skills and confidence in questioning, with many demonstrating secure recall and application of learning back in school. The visit strengthened cultural capital by giving pupils access to experiences and knowledge beyond their immediate environment and inspired further learning, including several pupils expressing a desire to return with their families. Overall, the experience had a clear and positive impact on pupils' engagement, understanding and enjoyment of learning.

Hedgehog Class (EYFS)

Hedgehog Class had a really fantastic time at Tring Museum and were thoroughly engaged throughout the visit.

The day began with an interactive workshop focused on animal coverings, where children learned about the different ways animals are protected. A particular highlight was the opportunity to touch real snake skin, which sparked excitement, fascination and lots of thoughtful questions. Following the workshop, the children explored the museum galleries, carefully observing a wide range of animals. They enjoyed searching for the smallest and largest examples within different groups, turning exploration into a fun and meaningful challenge.

The children were especially captivated by:

- Stunning photographs of a giant spider
- A close-up image of a spider spinning its web
- The incredible variety of beetles, moths and butterflies



Each child had a favourite insect to talk about, and they confidently sharing what they had noticed and learned.

The children's behaviour was excellent throughout the visit - they listened carefully, showed curiosity and enthusiasm, and made all the adults extremely proud.

EYFS Curriculum Links

The visit strongly supported areas of Understanding the World, particularly:

- The Natural World – observing animals, insects and their features
- Past and Present – recognising that museums help us learn about animals from around the world and over time
- Vocabulary development – using new language linked to animals, textures and habitats

Hands-on experiences, such as touching real snake skin and exploring animal collections, helped children build curiosity, confidence and understanding through first-hand learning.

The visit also supported:

- Communication and Language (listening, questioning, describing)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (behaviour, turn-taking, confidence in a new environment)

Squirrel Class (Key Stage 1)

The visit clearly linked to KS1 Science and Geography objectives, including:

- **Science – Animals, including humans**
 - Identifying and classifying animals
 - Recognising similarities and differences between species
 - Using observable features to sort and group animals
- **Working Scientifically**
 - Observing closely
 - Handling specimens carefully
 - Asking and answering questions
- **Geography**
 - Learning about animals from different places around the world
 - Developing awareness of global diversity



The A–Z animal hunt and classification workshop supported purposeful learning through movement, enquiry and discussion.

KSI Curriculum Links

Squirrel Class also had a brilliant visit and found the museum exhibits fascinating. One of their favourite activities was the A-Z Animal Hunt, which encouraged careful observation, reading and teamwork as they searched the galleries for animals linked to different letters of the alphabet.

The class took part in a workshop focused on animal classification, with children enjoying the chance to handle and sort real specimens. The workshop helped deepen pupils' understanding of how animals can be grouped and classified based on their characteristics.

The children were curious, engaged and keen to share their ideas, with some expressing a strong desire to return to the museum with their families over half term, showing just how inspiring the visit had been.

A Memorable Learning Experience

Both visits to Tring Museum provided rich opportunities to:

- Develop curiosity and observational skills
- Build scientific vocabulary and understanding
- Support learning beyond the classroom
- Encourage respectful behaviour in a public setting



It was a truly enjoyable and educational experience for all, and one that will support future learning back in school.

Child Voice

Hedgehog Class (EYFS)

"I liked touching the real snake skin — it was bumpy!"

"The spider was HUGE!"

"My favourite was the shiny beetles."

Squirrel Class (Year 1 & 2)

"I liked sorting the animals into groups."

"The A-Z hunt was fun. We had to look really carefully."

"I want to come back with my family."

