

2018-2019
5B
Grand Tour Report
Nagoya-Japan



Learning Focus

In this Japan trip, our class focused on learning scientific knowledge related to the subjects we are studying. The visit to Nagoya City Science Museum enriched our knowledge in Physics and Biology. We also explored the history of science development of Japan in Toyota Museum and the Railway Park.

Besides, the journey to Nagoya Castle and Washi experience provided us with precious opportunities to get a glimpse of the Japanese culture.

These activities provided us the knowledge that we would have never learned from the textbooks nor lessons. Our class gained a lot from the journey. On the other hand, we contributed to the Nagoya community through the beach cleaning activity. Throughout the activity, it also cultivated our awareness of contributing to the world as a global citizen.

Nagoya City Science Museum

We chose this spot as all of us study chemistry and most of us also study biology and physics. The science museum was a good environment for our classmates to enhance what they had learnt in school. Moreover, there were special topics that we did not have the chance to learn in school. For example, the astronomy building provided knowledge about astronomy, which we could not learn from the curriculum. This can increase our interest towards other aspects of science instead of only focusing on biology, physics and chemistry. We believe that by visiting the science museum, we can enhance our academic knowledge and our interest of studying science.



An exhibit showing the movement of air



We spent an enjoyable afternoon at the museum.

The visit to the science museum broadened our horizons. The most enthralling part of the museum was the area showing all elements of the periodic table. As there were in the periodic table, most of the science museum would choose not to show the explosive elements for safety concern, therefore, it was a rare and valuable opportunity to see the complete showcase of all the elements. As a student, there are not too many chances to do experiments in the laboratory. The exhibition can at least visualize the details of the elements, such as the colors and size. It made the concept of the periodic table more realistic and it became much easier for us to remember the details of the elements.

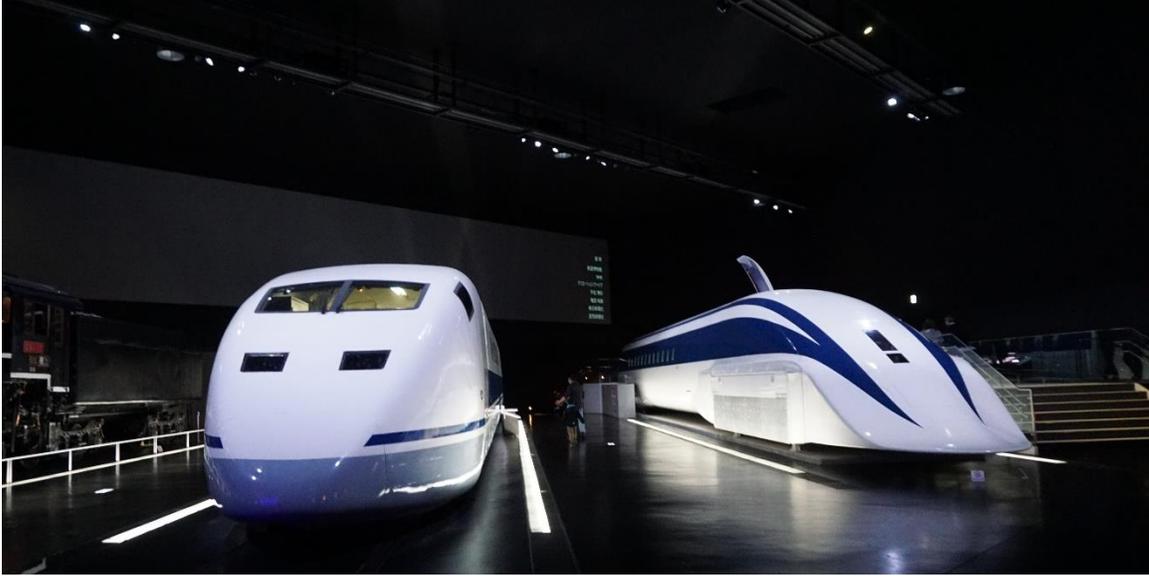
Moreover, the astronomy building gave us a lot of information about astronomy, which we did not have the chance to study. As studying astronomy was not a popular amongst students, this subject was cancelled in the universities in Hong Kong. As a result, we do not have any chance to study astronomy in Hong Kong. However, by visiting the astronomy building, we have learnt a lot of knowledge about astronomy and raised our interest on this topic.



A rocket exhibit placed outside the Nagoya Science Museum

By visiting the Nagoya City Science Museum, we had the chance to see many things related to science that we could rarely see. Therefore, we think that the science museum was worth visiting.

SCMAGLEV and Railway Park



(left): Class 955 Experimental Shinkansen (300X) was recorded the world's top speed (443 km/h) train system in 1996. (right): MLX01-1 Superconducting Maglev used at the Yamanashi Linear Test Line was recorded the world's highest speed (581 km / h) train system in 2003.

Our class visited the SCMAGLEV and Railway Park in 5 April 2019. It introduced the development in high speed railway through real rolling stock displays, including the Superconducting Magnetically Levitated Vehicle (Maglev), as well as old railway rolling stock. There were 39 rolling stock displays, with both Maglev and conventional trains. Some rolling stocks have marked world speed record. Visitors can even go into some trains.

Besides, there were exhibits about mechanics behind the Shinkansen and Superconducting Maglev, and the history of Japan's railway. There were also Shinkansen and conventional train driving simulators. Visitors could know more about how the railways operate every day. The relics room exhibited many historical items, such as old documents, old tools and old equipment. In the Greatest Railway Diorama Room, railway models were shown with the theme "A Day in the Life of the Railway".



As science students, we could see how the physics knowledge we learnt in our lessons was applied in daily life. For example, we could see how the mechanics of Maglev relate to the topic “Electricity and Magnetism”. Those who did not study physics could still understand as the explanation was easy to understand.

No one had ever thought of travelling at the speed of 200 km/h on a train until the operation of Shinkansen in 1964, which is famous for its punctuality and safety. It is the first high-speed railway in the world and it has changed the world. Many countries develop their own high-speed railway after the success of Shinkansen. The management of the railway company is the most important factor for its success. We should learn from the Japanese people to treat all the details seriously.

Beach Cleaning

On the day of our community service, it was windy and we had to carry the garbage we picked up, but all of us worked diligently, never missing a single piece of trash, from tiny bottle caps to heavy wooden planks. Through our hardwork and cooperation, the beach was swiftly and soundly cleaned up. Reaching one end of the beach and looking back at the pristine image of the clean beach, we couldn't help but feel satisfied.



It was windy on that day, hence our mission became more difficult. We need to withstand the coldness and wind while grabbing our plastic bags tightly.

From this rewarding experience, we understood the joy felt from reaping one's hardwork. Although the service did not require any sort of textbook knowledge, we did it with qualities that are valued at school, such as meticulousness and attentiveness. Besides, our teamwork was greatly valued. Whenever we overlooked any garbage, our classmates had our back and picked it up. It was only through working together with equal fervor did we accomplish our goal.



Clamps and plastic bags were given to us to pick up waste. Most of the rubbish we picked up were small pieces of plastics that looked harmless but actually posed great threat to the marine animals which consumed them. The community service experience was new and satisfying to us.

Moreover, the community service did not only enhance our personal attributes, but also our view on community service. By looking at the result of our work, we understood how much cleaning up improved the beauty of our environment. It truly inspired us to participate in such service in the future. Not only is the service beneficial to us volunteers, but also to the community as a whole. For example, the beach we helped clean up is a well-known holiday destination in Japan so cleaning it up enabled more people to enjoy the natural untainted scenery when having recreational activities. Furthermore, the beach is also a breeding ground for sea turtles, and thus our work helped protect the sea turtles, which have a lowering number in the world. We learnt how community service enhanced people's civility in the environmental aspect and thus improved the overall cleanliness of the community.



The sign showed that the beach we cleaned was a breeding ground for sea turtles.

On the surface, community services seem to be small acts of kindness. However, it actually impacts various aspects in the community, such as the social, environmental and cultural aspects. Joining such services is definitely worthwhile and rewarding.

Overall reflection

The activity had raised not only our awareness of environmental protection, but also our realization of delivering this idea to the society. Just like what our principal always emphasized – From “Me” to “We” – we learned that “united we stand”. If everyone can take their own responsibility, then, together we can make our society a better place to live.