

A Report on our Trip to the Mystic Seaport Aquarium

By Jack Wooldridge

I really enjoyed our trip to the Mystic Sea Life Aquarium. When we first got there, we saw a show where three sea lions did tricks, showed pattern recognition, and ate a whole lot of fish. I also learned the difference between seals and sea lions. The trick is in seeing the way they move. Sea lions can support themselves on their front and back flippers, giving them greater mobility on land. Seals just sort of flop around. We saw a seal outside, and he looked really funny when he moved! We also saw penguins being fed (who were very cute, but very greedy), dolphins (who were amazing and would do different tricks). We saw beluga whales being fed and doing tricks (they are called the canaries on the sea because of the sounds they make with their blow-holes). We also saw a whole bunch of sea lions and a seal, and walked through a marsh.

After that, we went inside. There were some great exhibits, like jellyfish, coral reefs, an octopus, Creatures of the Amazon River and more. I think my favorite exhibit was Creatures of the Amazon River, because they had piranhas. There was an exhibit on bio-luminescence, which had some very cool fish. We also saw a really neat little tank, where baby rays, skates and fish were developing inside their hard egg cases, but a hole had been cut in the side of each one and covered with tape. You could see them quite happily developing inside. We also saw sharks, an enormous ray (I mean ENORMOUS!), petted a ray, and finished it off by watching the seals play with pool toys and look through the glass at you.