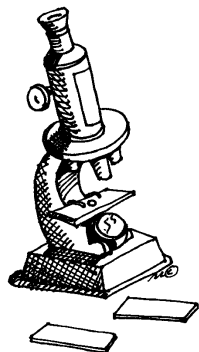


Subject Area Representative (SAR) Reports



Did you ever want to check out an ultimate science field trip?

Maybe take classes a few days to an area loaded with science and historical opportunities. The week school ended, my wife decided to check out a company that organizes such trips. We joined 17 other Long Islander teachers and guests on the Curriculum Travel of America (CTA) Teachers Familiarization Trip to Cape Cod and Boston. The bus picked us up from the Bridgeport ferry terminal and we met our tour director, Linc Jivden. Several other CTA agents, tour leaders, and teachers from Pennsylvania and New Jersey filled the coach bus. Off we went for and educational experience with an exceptional tour director. The purpose of the tour was to show us the kind of experience we could have with our students.

Linc, a retired science teacher, seamlessly guided us through a tour of the Boston Science Museum, New England Aquarium, a meal at

Biology Whale Watching Trip to Cape Cod

Glen Cochrane, Biology SAR

Quincy Market and an amazing hike along the Freedom Trail. We boarded the bus and spent the night at the Radisson in Hyannis. After a buffet breakfast we took an oceanography nature cruise aboard a boat collecting samples and listening to a naturalist describe the natural history of Wellfleet Harbor. We then hiked with a naturalist through the shore and marsh of a 1200 acre Audubon preserve followed by a tour of Race Point Visitors Center. Lunch was in Provincetown where many a lobster was consumed and souvenirs purchased. We returned to the hotel for a meal and a nights sleep.

The following day was the highlight of the trip. From Provincetown we boarded a ship from Dolphin Fleet for a whale watch cruise. Within 45 minutes, we spotted 2 finbacks and soon we began seeing humpbacks. For 3 hours, the captain closed in on distant whale sightings. Many photos and videos were taken as we watched the humpbacks feed with bubble netting, dive and seem to ignore all the attention. All total, I counted 11 different whales. One of the teachers photographed the ven-

“The following day was the highlight of the trip... Within 45 minutes, we spotted 2 finbacks and soon we began seeing humpbacks. ... All total, I counted 11 different whales.”

tral side of the humpback’s flukes as they dove. Along with the naturalist on board we used a guide book to identify the specific whales he photographed. The researchers have compiled a book that documents with pictures the names of the humpbacks that frequent the Provincetown coast.

Based on our experience, I would recommend Curriculum Travel of America (CTA) for educational tours. They are lead by trained tour directors that are experienced teachers. CTA makes all arrangements for travel and tours for trips as large as an entire grade level. Our experience was science/ecological in focus with a bit of Boston history. Of course, they will work with the teachers to modify the program to meet your needs. ■



Fluke of a Humpback Whale



Participants collect marine life at the Audubon Preserve