

# Five Fun Activities

WB: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020



## **1. Take a Virtual Tour of The Natural History Museum**

Follow the link below to find a range of links to virtual tours round the Natural History Museum in London.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html>

There are many ways you learn about the exhibitions in the museum. Here are some listed below.

### **Take a deep dive into the life of a blue whale**

Explore the rich history of Hope, the blue whale suspended from the ceiling in Hintze Hall. In this online interactive, see what her life was like in the ocean, find out how she got to her home in the Museum and get a behind-the-scenes peek of the Museum's collections.

### **Hang out with scientists online**

Join the Nature Live Online team on Tuesdays at 12.00 and Fridays at 10.30 for interactive talks featuring topical discussions with our scientists and cutting-edge research. You can ask questions during the live broadcast on YouTube.

### **Let Sir David Attenborough guide you around Hintze Hall**

Sir David's unmistakable voice and expertise on all things nature make him the perfect person to take you on a tour of Hintze Hall's star specimens (including the blue marlin), all from the comfort of home.

### **Go on a virtual tour of the Museum**

Google Arts & Culture gives you access to 300,000 specimens within the Museum's collections, along with 14 digital exhibitions, virtual tours and an interactive gigapixel photo (so enormous you can zoom in on the tiniest detail) of Hintze Hall's gilded canopy.

### **Flick through Wildlife Photographer of the Year images**

Explore the exhibition at your own pace (and without the crowds!) in this online gallery filled with stunning nature photographs.

### **Check out the Hintze Hall balcony displays**

The large-scale cabinets on the first-floor balcony of Hintze Hall showcase nature's diversity in four spectacular displays: seabirds, pheasants, rocks and minerals.

### **Watch us on the small screen**

The Museum's stunning architecture has made it a popular choice as a filming location for everything from blockbuster movies to TV dramas.

Discover which films and television shows feature the Museum.

### **Examine a 3D model of Dippy's skull**

Get up close to the skull of the Museum's iconic Diplodocus cast produced by our Imaging and Analysis Centre. See more 3D models on Sketchfab, including Darwin's fossil mammals and the Crystal Palace sculptures.

### See illustrations from HMS Endeavour

Our collection of botanical illustrations from HMS Endeavour make up some of the most scientifically significant artworks in our archive. It features works by Sydney Parkinson.

### Browse the Library and Archives digital collections

Dig deep into the archives, where you'll find scientifically important art, books, prints and manuscripts, including drawings by William Smith and brothers Franz and Ferdinand Bauer.

### Uncover highlights from the collections

We've wrapped up some of the highlights from the collections on display including specimens from space, the spirit collection, Charles Darwin and the Treasures gallery.

Discover more stories from the collections including stories from the Museum at Tring.

### Zoom in on beetles

Open the drawers and zoom in on 16 Coleoptera collections held at the Museum including those from Thomas Broun (1838-1919), David Sharp (1840-1922) and Charles O. Waterhouse (1843-1917).

Find out more about the Entomology collections.

## 2. Make Pork and Pineapple Skewers

 **PREP: 20 MINS**  
**COOK: 5 MINS - 10 MINS**

 **EASY**

 **SERVES 4**



### Ingredients

400g pork fillet  
4 tbsp light muscovado sugar  
60ml cider vinegar  
1 tsp fish sauce  
½ small pineapple, peeled, cored and cut into chunks (or use ready prepped fresh pineapple, drained well)  
1 green pepper, deseeded and cut into squares (optional)  
4 spring onions, trimmed and cut into 4 equal lengths  
small bunch coriander, chopped (optional)  
cooked rice or pitta, to serve

### Method

1. Cut the pork into cubes. Heat the sugar and vinegar in a pan over a low heat until the sugar melts. Add the fish sauce and cool. Tip in the pork and mix well so that all the cubes are covered in sauce.
2. Heat the barbecue. If you are using coals, wait until they turn white. If you are indoors, heat a griddle pan. Thread the pork and pineapple onto skewers, alternating pieces with the pepper and spring onion.
3. Barbecue or griddle the skewers for 3-4 mins each side (you may need to cook them for longer if griddling). Sprinkle with coriander, if you like, then serve with rice or slide into pitta breads.

### 3. Hold a Family Sports Day

You may not be able to join in with a sports day as a whole school this year, so why not have a go at having a family sports day competition!



Activity Ideas;

- Egg and Spoon Race
- Assault course
- Relay races
- Sprint races
- Ball dribbling round cones (or objects you have at home)
- Throwing objects into a hoop (or seeing who can throw objects and get them as close to a certain place if you do not have any hoops).
- Skipping while running races
- Hopping races

You may have some of your own ideas. Set up the activities and keep score as you go! See which member of the family is the Sport Day champion!

### 4. Learn about Great White Sharks

Read the information below to learn about Great White Sharks. The link to the website is below. You might want to also do some of your own research to find out more!

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/sea-life/great-white-sharks/>



#### Great white shark facts

- 1) Great white sharks can be found throughout the world's oceans, mostly in cool waters close to the coast.
- 2) These super swimmers are the largest predatory fish (fish that eat other fish or animals) on our planet. On average, they grow to around 4.6m long, but some great whites have been measured at 6m – that's half the length of a bus!
- 3) Great white sharks are grey with a white underbelly, from where they get their name. They have a streamlined shape and powerful tails that propel them through the water at over 60km per hour!
- 4) Any creature unlucky enough to find itself in the gob of a great white is in for a nasty shock! Because this marine beast's mouth is equipped with a set of 300 sharp, triangular teeth arranged in up to seven rows. Yikes! Let's take a closer look, if you dare... (click below to see the youtube clip)

<https://youtu.be/WxFNP5C4niw?list=PLQlnTldJs0ZTVrUI7QhGQikZlDP4dsCto>

5) Whilst many think of these beasts as fearsome man-eaters, humans aren't, in fact, on the great white's menu. Phew! There are around 5-10 attacks a year, but researchers believe that, rather than preying on humans to eat them, the sharks are instead taking a "sample bite" out of curiosity, before swimming off.

6) So what do they eat? Well, when they're young, they feed on small prey, such as fish and rays. But when they're older and bigger, they generally feast on sea mammals such as sea lions, seals and small whales.



7) Great white sharks have such a strong sense of smell that they can detect a colony of seals two miles away. And check this out – if there was only one drop of blood in 100 litres of water, a great white would smell it!

8) These cunning creatures like to take their prey by surprise. They usually position themselves underneath their unsuspecting victims before swimming up and...chomp! They often burst out of the water in a leap (called a breach) before falling back in with their meal in their mouths.

9) When a great white gives birth, she usually has two to ten youngsters, called "pups". But she shows no care for her offspring – in fact, she may even try to eat them! Taking care of themselves, the newborn pups will immediately swim off into the ocean.

10) Great white sharks are at the top of the food chain and aren't likely to be killed by other sea creatures. Sadly, however, they are under serious threat by human activity. Illegal hunting of these beautiful beasts, and overfishing, have meant that today great white sharks are a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List.

## 5. Write a story inspired by woods and trees



Go for a woodland walk to give you some inspiration to write a story set in the woodlands.

Below are some ideas you could use to get you started for your story.

- A tree has fallen in the woods
- A character has gone missing
- An animal is shouting an alarm call
- There are some mysterious footprints to follow

Once you have written your story, gather as a family and share them. If you wanted to you could sit round a fire and toast marshmallows while you share your stories.