

YEAR 12 KEW GARDENS BIOLOGY VISIT

Earlier this summer term, Year 12 biology had the chance to visit Kew Gardens- a large botanical garden collection consisting of historic glasshouses and scientific research facilities. Upon arrival, we experienced a guided tour in which we completed a range of activities relating to taxonomy (the science of naming species) and botanical research. We were taught the several ways in which researchers record plant samples; one of which was creating botanical drawings, which we got to practise.

After this, we were led to a biome which mimicked a high-altitude environment and consisted of plants specialised to this climate. We were instructed to find similarities and differences between plants with the same genus name but different species name. This helped us understand that plants with the same genus name may share the same core traits, however the different species name indicates that the plant has unique characteristics.

After the tour, we were free to explore the rest of Kew Gardens until dismissal. During this time, we experienced the different biomes and climates each glasshouse consisted of as well as the diverse types of plants that thrived in these environments. Through this, we were able to understand and observe the unique adaptations that plants present in different environmental conditions, as well as similarities and differences between these.

Not only was Kew Gardens an educational and enlightening experience, but it was also a beautiful, scenic site. The wide variety of plant life formed a diverse range of biomes and gardens, ranging from flowers and bushes to trees and cacti. Additionally, there were also artworks scattered throughout the landscape, which act as decorative pieces and encourage conversations about climate issues through their abstract meanings.

Overall, we were educated on the significance of the naming system of plants as well as see the beauty of plant life and abstract art pieces. Through this experience, we were also able to develop a deeper understanding of adaptations and characteristics of plants in different climates.

By Hayden P & Ayesha L

