

**Saturday – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Flower Power and Happy Birthday – Welcome to Eden Project!**

On Saturday, 14 of May 2022, we went to Eden Project, a famous visitor attraction in Cornwall. The project is located in a reclaimed China clay pit and consists of two different biomes and one museum. It was opened in 2001 and welcomes 1,2 million visitors every year (50 000 of them students like us). So far there have been 22 million visitors to Eden Project – isn't that amazing?

However, we started off our trip with playing a little prank on Jacob first, as it was his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Next to singing "Happy Birthday", he received a sash, some flower garland, and a crown. Of course, there were also a small cake with a candle, some sweets and a present from his parents. We hope Jacob had a great day. We certainly did – at Eden Project. So let's come back and tell you a little bit more about it.

The first biome is the "tropical Rainforest" and the second one is "Mediterranean forest". Especially with the first one, we strongly recommend you wearing a thin t- Shirt and some shorts/skirts, otherwise you are going to sweat a little bit. In the tropical Rainforest biome are plants like bambus, wild bananas, cacao, pineapple and so much more. The rainforest is divided into tropical South America, West Africa, Southeast Asia, Tropical islands and crops. The temperature in the forest could be up to 45 degrees. In this rainforest are over 1.000 varieties of plants. Unfortunately, every 11 seconds this territory of the rainforest is going to get chucked down, an information that somewhat shocked us and made us pretty sad.

In the Mediterranean Biome you can see plants like wild vines, brightly coloured flowers, old olive trees and many more. It includes plants from California, South Africa and Western Australia. The Mediterranean Forest is a temperate biome, characterized by hot-dry summers and mild and rainy winters. You can also visit the Med Terrace for authentic Mediterranean food. Most of us preferred pizza in the common cafe, though ;-)

The core building of the Eden Project lays the „Invisible Worlds Exhibition“- the Museum. It shows what happens when a stable climate and a natural recycling system get threatened, .... let us tell you: we are too. Inside the building are many sculptures, for example the Infinity Blue 'breathing' sculpture. This huge ceramic sculpture almost reaches the roof and represents one of the world's smallest but most important organisms: the cyanobacteria (for Biology buffs: it is responsible for photosynthesis)

Apart from walking through the Domes informing yourselves, there are also many other things you can see or do while you are there. You can listen to an Audio Tour while you are exploring, for example, or you can watch the birds. There are also many playgrounds for kids and restaurants in case you are hungry. Beware though: you can only pay with a credit card at the restaurants and shops, even for ice cream. At the exit of Eden Project there is a shop where you can buy souvenirs. There you also find a puppet display where they demonstrate how the world would be without a plants. Scary!

All in all, it was a fantastic day and Eden Project is worth a visit, not only for flower fans.

Jill and Lisa (Steve)

