

Our Trip to the Chattanooga's Creative Discovery Museum

By Jacey Begnaud, Lily Bunting, Sven Hokanson, Elke Reinert and Gus Weatherford

As a part of a three day visit to Chattanooga, Tenn., the fifth grade class from Mountain Discovery Charter School visited the Creative Discovery Museum.

We went up, down, inside, outside on the second floor, and all around! We blew stuff up! Let's face it. We're getting ahead of ourselves!

Let's start at the beginning: After three and a half hours of driving, we got to the Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga. We had a scientist lead us to his lab.

We learned about matter! Mr. Lucien showed us how the hotter the balloons got, the more the balloons expanded and the colder they got the more they condensed.

Balloons were used in one experiment. The first balloon contained helium and when the balloon was caught on fire, it made a small pop.

A second balloon had hydrogen in it and when heated, the balloon quickly went up in flames. Keona said that was the "most exciting part!"

The third balloon had helium and oxygen, and went up in flames much longer and louder than the second. Sven even felt it shake the room and Elke felt the heat.

Why was there such an explosion? When heated the balloons expanded, the atoms got so hot that they began to vibrate. When they got too hot, they exploded! If it hadn't been for the heat, the atoms in the balloons would have contracted because the molecules would stop vibrating.

Mr. Lucien showed us that you can use liquid nitrogen to contract matter by cooling things down to 300 - 400 degrees below zero. To demonstrate, Mr. Lucien dipped a flower into liquid nitrogen.

Elias explains, "Before the flower went in to the liquid nitrogen it had water in the stem and it was harder to break. After Mr. Lucien dipped the flower into the liquid nitrogen it froze all the water in the flower, making it very easy to break. It was very interesting when Willa, a student, crumpled the frozen flower petals."

He also dipped a banana into liquid nitrogen which turned it as hard as a rock. Carter, a student, hit the table with

the banana, which broke it into pieces. Students learned about matter, mass and atoms in their short introduction from Mr. Lucien.

After the hour long science lesson on matter, we split into four groups and explored the rest of the two stories of the museum. They explored a water and playground area mixed together.

Lilly told us that she "loved the playground. There was a part with a cage way up high and it moved around."

Ben said that his favorite thing was to look at all of the exotic animal exhibits.

Elke's favorite part was the swing where you buckled yourself into and lifted yourself up by pulling a rope. When you got to the top a bell rang. Some other areas that stood out for the students were a recording studio, a small creatures exhibit, a film making area, a doctor's area where you could look at X-rays and an outdoor play area where you could play an oversized chess game.

The MDCS students were sad to leave the Creative Discovery Museum because it was a fun and safe place to learn about science.

National Cemetery poem by 5th graders at Mountain Discovery

While exploring Chattanooga's rich Civil War history for three days, the Mountain Discovery Charter School's fifth grade walked through the Civil War section of the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Some of the students, while writing about their experiences there, decided using free verse was the best way to express their thoughts and feelings.



Chattanooga National Cemetery

Impressions From the Civil War Section

By Carter B., Lilly C., Ben M. and Willa R.

All the dead.
Each different from the others,
the depressing stones stand
alone.
One day trading with each

other; the next day shooting at
one and other.
Segregated.
Didn't the blacks fight as gal-
lantly as the white troops?
Spirits of the dead lurk in the
dark
to never tell what it felt like.
Flowers wilt by the graves in

the late fall.
It is so sad.
Thousands of unnamed graves
and
we have no idea
who they were - only what
they did.
I feel sick with the sorrow felt
by their families.

CLASS OF 2015-2016

EDUCATION

Mountain Discovery 5th graders visit Chickamauga

By Annabett Bridgers, Elijah Farmer, Silas McPherson and Chris Singley

On the second day of their 3-day adventure in Chatanooga, Tenn., the MDCS 5th grade class went to the Chickamauga National Military Park where they learned a lot of history of the Civil War. For instance, some people in the war didn't have a choice to serve in the war. Some served because they were conscripted. Others joined up because their good friends or family joined, but it ended up being much more difficult than what they imagined.

Many on both sides thought the war would be over within a month, but it lasted for 4 years. Students spent some time at the Chickamauga Visitor's Center where they explored the museum and saw a movie. They also saw some of the Chickamauga battlefields and saw how hard it would have been in the Civil War.

While at the Visitor's Center the students learned that it took six horses to carry one cannon. "I have seen a musket that was a shotgun," said Chris in amazement. Everyone found it interesting that the Spencer rifle could shoot seven shots in

the time it took the musket to shoot one. The Spencer Rifle came in the middle of the war and only the Union side had the ammunition for it, putting them at an advantage.

They also watched a movie which followed the story of J. K. Elifant was amazed that when J. K. was shot he didn't want to be carried back so that he might live. "I thought he would say 'Carry me,' but he said 'Leave me here.'" It was felt that maybe he either didn't want to hold back his troops or he was in too much pain. The movie really gave an understanding of

what happened and how it felt to be there. The movie made you feel sad.

While touring the grounds of Chickamauga, they stopped at the Snodgrass House. This was someone's house that turned into a miniature hospital where they amputated soldiers' limbs and threw them out the window! Silas imagined that these people would have a peaceful life living near the beautiful fields and then one day it turns into one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War - right in their backyard! Nearby the Snodgrass House, the kids got a first-hand account of the

Chickamauga battle. Nearby a soldier named Will came out of the woods and asked them what they were doing there. Will really gave the students a feeling of how tough it was to fight in the war.

Fifth grade student, Ella Fin-dur said, "I felt like the man was worried because he went through a lot." Will said he remembered clearly the sound of his general shouting "Let's go boys!" and running up the hill to claim the top with his pistol waving in the air. When the soldiers came back to claim the bodies, Will watched his best friend as he had to look

at his dead father and confirm it was him. They recognized him by his missing teeth and underwear.

The battle at Chickamauga was important because so many people fought to end slavery and it worked. The Union won the war. Sitting on the soil where thousands of people died was very moving. The students left to ponder the good and the bad of the war. Annabett shared, "I think of the war in a good way even though it is sad - the soldiers did a lot for us and I would hate to live in the environment before the war."