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## WILD ABOUT QUEBEC WILDLIFE

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A new learning experience is just a one-hour bus ride away- at least that was the case for the two Sec. 3 IB groups.

On Tuesday, October 26th, we went to the Ecomuseum Zoo in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue to learn about wildlife and do firsthand research for an English project. The Ecomuseum is dedicated to helping Quebec's wildlife by taking in injured animals and caring for them until they're ready to be released back into the wild. The zoo aims to educate the youth on the importance of preserving biodiversity and protecting endangered species, making it the perfect place for us to learn about Quebec's wildlife.



While we were there, we followed a tour guide who led us down a two-hour long trail. There was a vast variety of live animals: everything from snowy white owls to three-legged foxes. All the animals from the zoo were rescued from Quebec; it was shocking seeing animals like hedgehogs and arctic wolves and knowing they were from the same province as us. Among other things, we got to see three otterly-adorable sea mammals swimming around and playing together in the icy cold weather. We learned that even in the freezing cold, the otters are still warm thanks to their thick fur. The tour guide, a specialist in biology and wildlife, taught us about the different mannerisms and needs of every animal we came across.

It was such a rewarding experience, being able to observe the animals from only a few feet away. Having a specialist there to answer all our curious questions only added to the experience.



The trip to the Ecomuseum was a perfect way to give us a hands-on and interactive learning experience. It taught us that learning doesn't always have to be in a classroom and research doesn't always have to be done with a computer. We discovered that we can learn about the world we live in and the different species we share it with by simply taking a bus ride to the zoo.

