

ANIMAL IMMIGRANTS

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Summer Journey tells the story of animals introduced and naturalized in America

ANIMAL IMMIGRANTS is the title of the Summer Journey for boys and girls that will be available during the months of June, July, and August.

The Journey will point out some of the common animals that have been introduced into America. Some of these exotics, as immigrant or alien animals are called, have become naturalized here; others failed to survive.

Some birds, like the Ring-necked Pheasant and the European or Gray Partridge, were introduced to provide sport. The Ringneck was successfully introduced in 1881; the Gray Partridge in 1908.

The two most common and widespread of all exotics are the English Sparrow and the European Starling. They are considered by many to be pests, precisely because of their success.

The English Sparrow was introduced in 1850 by Europeans who were homesick for this familiar bird. The Starling was introduced in 1890 by Eugene Schiefflin, a wealthy New York manufacturer fond of both birds and Shakespeare. He wanted to introduce all of the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's works.

Many insects have been introduced into America, often by accident. The common white Cabbage Butterfly arrived here in the 1860's from Europe. Early colonists introduced the Honeybee about 300 years ago.



More than 17,000 boys and girls have taken Museum Journeys since the program was started. Here, three young men take notes about the snow leopard of Central Asia.

Two rodents accidentally introduced are the House Mouse and the House (Norway) Rat. Both arrived here accidentally as stowaways on ships sailing from Europe. The House Mouse came here soon after English colonists came to America. The House Rat arrived in 1775.

Carp were brought from Asia to Europe in historic times, and to America around 1880. In Europe and Asia they are desirable, but they are looked upon as pests in our country. The Carp's relative, the Goldfish, was brought over as an aquarium fish. People who tire of them often release them in lakes.

This is only a partial list of common animal immigrants found in America today. A complete list would fill several pages.

Journey No. 50

Animal Immigrants is Journey No. 50 in the Raymond Foundation's Journey program. The Journey program was planned to help children discover objects and items of interest in the Museum. The program helps children and adults to know how or where to enjoy the many opportunities offered in the Museum.

Four different journeys are presented each year. Only 80 children took the first journey, on Drums, offered in the Spring of 1955. Since 1955, over 17,000 have taken journeys. Some take only one or two, but others complete enough to earn award certificates.

An award program was set up to give some form of recognition for the children's accomplishments in the Journey program.

When a child successfully completes four journeys, he receives a Traveler's Award. When eight are completed, he gets an Adventurer's Award, and with 12 done, he becomes an Explorer.

Upon completion of 16 journeys, which takes four years, the Explorer becomes a Beagler, and is presented with a copy of Charles Darwin's *Voyage of the Beagle*. Then he is ready for the special Journey taking him through the Museum halls to see some of the specimens and objects Darwin saw on his historic journey.

Upon completion of this, the youngster becomes a member of the Museum Discoverer's Club. Some 125 children are either past or present members of the Museum Discoverer's Club.

Each Spring, a Traveler's Day is held in the James Simpson Theatre. In April of this year, 205 children were presented different awards.

Journeys are offered free of charge. The program is one of the many functions of the Raymond Foundation, one of the Museum's educational divisions. Journeys and information on the program can be picked up at either the North or South Door or at the Information Booth.



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