ON LOCATION

After a year of closures and cancellations, summer vacations were back on. (Story by L. Gonzalez, reporting by S. Ceron)

Over the summer, Alex Rodriguez traveled across the Atlantic to London.

While more places in America were opening after COVID-19, many buildings and events were still closed in England.

"We were supposed to go see Universal Studios, but it was closed," Rodriguez, an eighth-grader, said. "I was scared because something about it being closed down made us all go, 'oh no.'"

Instead of going to Universal Studios, they visited Big Ben, went on cruises, and went to different stores while they were there.

"I got shirts and jeans there," Rodriguez said. "I don't usually like getting clothes from America because there's usually nothing here."

He and his family also experienced dining out in a new country.

"We went to these restaurants that were fancy and complicated," Rodriguez said. "Inside the restaurant, the tables were very different."

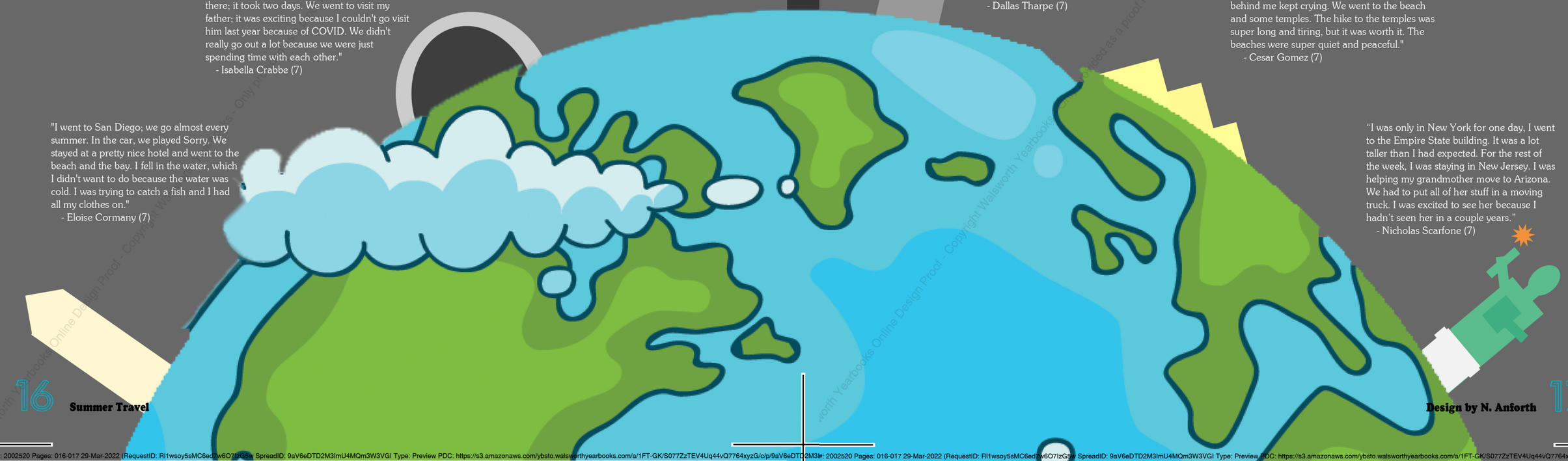
The locals there also made the experience unforgettable for Rodriguez

"They just had that feeling that you could just walk up and talk to them," Rodriguez said. "Some guy walked up to me and told me a poem; it was about tigers and lions."

"I went (to Honduras) last summer in July. I went with my aunt and my little cousin. I was there for about a month. It was mostly just the same day over and over again, watching TV, eating, sleeping. The flight was very tiring. I think we might go back later this year, which I'm very excited for."
- Victoria Lopez (8)

"I went to Kansas at the beginning of the school year with my mom and brother. We drove there; it took two days. We went to visit my father; it was exciting because I couldn't go visit him last year because of COVID. We didn't really go out a lot because we were just spending time with each other."
- Isabella Crabbe (7)

"I went to San Diego; we go almost every summer. In the car, we played Sorry. We stayed at a pretty nice hotel and went to the beach and the bay. I fell in the water, which I didn't want to do because the water was cold. I was trying to catch a fish and I had all my clothes on."
- Eloise Cormany (7)



Camp
"I knew people there from a while ago, so I couldn't talk to them or see them. (When I went back), I got to learn new things, meet new people, and just have fun. (I missed) the sports and stuff because there was archery there."
- Zoila Kelley (7)

Baseball Games
"We were planning on going to a couple of baseball games, but we never got to go to them because that's right when COVID started. It was honestly disappointing because I kind of wanted to go. It was exciting (when) everyone was back."
- Michael Osborn (7)

Football Games
"I like the Cardinals; they are my favorite team. I've liked them for a while and my whole family likes them. I was mad that I couldn't go to games; I missed watching them play."
- Ryker Brossman (7)

Grand REOPENING

Everything from ballparks to waterparks were open again for summer fun. (Reporting by N. Anforth)

Movie Theaters
"I missed the smell of the popcorn and the thrill of sneaking candy into the theater. The theater was pretty empty and it was quiet, but the movie was loud and the quality was better than home."
- Jacob Mayfield (7)

Water Parks
"Me and my cousins were going to go (to Sunsplash), but then COVID hit. It felt depressing, like you're trapped. Being able to go back to Sunsplash made me feel open and free. I went to the biggest slide first and then the wave pool."
- Shawn Spallina (7)

"I went to Disneyland in California. We flew there, but it was my first time ever flying, so I was kind of nervous. I loved all the rides there, I don't think that I could pick a favorite one. I got these hamburgers that were shaped like Mickey Mouse. I went with my mom, my sister, and my brother. I really wished I could've gone on the Cinderella ride, but my mom said the line was too long."
- Dallas Tharpe (7)

"I went to Mexico for about a month. I have a lot of family there. We flew there and this kid behind me kept crying. We went to the beach and some temples. The hike to the temples was super long and tiring, but it was worth it. The beaches were super quiet and peaceful."
- Cesar Gomez (7)

"I was only in New York for one day, I went to the Empire State building. It was a lot taller than I had expected. For the rest of the week, I was staying in New Jersey. I was helping my grandmother move to Arizona. We had to put all of her stuff in a moving truck. I was excited to see her because I hadn't seen her in a couple years."
- Nicholas Scarfone (7)

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