

Welcome To The Children's Garden!



San Francisco Botanical Garden

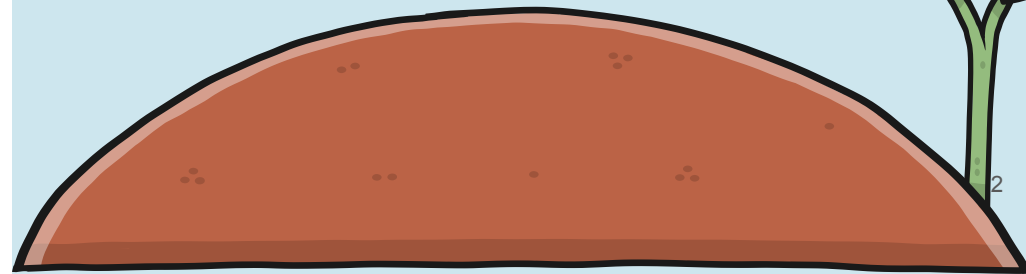


Introduction

Thank you for coming out today to the Children's Garden!

This garden serves as a living classroom where students learn science via observation and hands-on exploration. This garden is a "Yes! Space" where children are encouraged to use all of their senses.

The purpose of this deck of cards is to provide you with a self-serve program guide.



Children's Garden Map



Children's Garden Guidelines

1. Respect all living things in the garden including insects, animals, and plants.
2. Leave NO trace (pick up any trash you or your class created during the visit to the garden). Trash Bin location can be found on the Children's Garden Map.
3. The garden might become busy, it's important that you share the space with other visitors.

Children's Garden Message Board



What's going on in the Children's Garden?



Wayfinding Signs



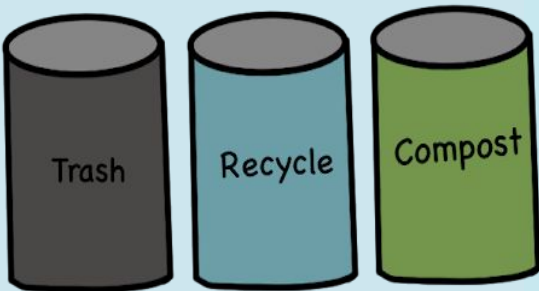
What is the best way to get to the Creation Station?



Crescent



It's important that your group leaves the space cleaner than when you arrived.



Crescent



The Crescent is a nice place to eat lunch, have a snack, or simply take a break. This is also a perfect place to leave backpacks, although I would recommend that at least one adult remain to watch the children's bags. If you've brought your own activity, this is an excellent place to set up it because there's plenty of space. Keep in mind, however, that due to the large number of groups that visit the garden, the area may not always be available.

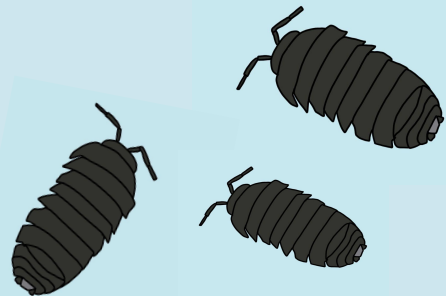




Dig Zone



Let's go digging and see what we can find.



Dig Zone



Activities:

Duration: 5-20 min

- Use some tools to dig. You can make some hills, valleys, trenches, tunnels and more!
- Observe how the temperature, texture and colour of the soil changes as you dig deeper and deeper.
- Don't forget to visit the Mud Kitchen to see how dirt and water mix!



Fun Facts

- Soil is the top thin, layer of earth.
- Soil provides a habitat for millions of living organisms and most of them are too small to see.
- A teaspoon of healthy soil has more microbes living in it than there are people on Earth!



Questions

1. When you dig a hole in the dirt how does it feel? Is it warmer or colder inside?
2. What part of the plant lives in the soil?
3. Which creatures do we want to see digging in our garden? Are there any we don't want?



Sensory Garden



Do you know where I could find soft leaves for my nest?



Sensory Garden



Activities:

Duration: 5-20 min

- Take a big deep breath, use this space as a sanctuary to relax and enjoy the plants with your senses.
- You can rub and smell the leaves of the plants. If you like how a leaf smells, gently pick it off and bring it home.
- Touch the leaves and observe their texture.



Fun Facts

- The scientific name of Sage is *Salvia* which is derived from the Latin word 'salveo' which means 'to save', 'to heal', 'be in good health'.
- The smell of roses is thought to be relaxing because it encourages us to breathe deeply and slowly.



Questions

1. What do you smell?
2. How do the leaves feel? Are they smooth? Rough?
3. How does it feel to be around these plants?
4. How can you use your senses to help change your feelings?

Creation Station



Can you create a home for me?



Creation Station



Activities: **Duration: 10-30 min**

- Create habitats for garden critters.
- Create critters (real or imaginary) with materials gathered in the area.
- Look for existing creations and make observations.
- **Challenge:** Create a shelter using only five items no larger than your arm's length.



Vocabulary

- A habitat - is a natural environment that allows critters to thrive
- A critter - is a small living creature, including insects, mammals or birds
- A structure - is something that is constructed out of materials



Questions

1. How many critters do you think will fit in your habitat?
2. What is one unique feature of the creature you've created?
3. Take a look at the structure you've built and then compare it to your classmates. What do you notice is different?

Pine cone Basketball



How many cones do you think you'll be able to get into the hoop?



Pine cone Basketball



Activities:

Duration: 5-25 min

- Use the pine cones in this area to play basketball by throwing them in the buckets hanging on the trees.
- Each bucket is worth a different number of points, aim wisely!
- Please gather all your pine cones and return them to the starting point before you leave this station.



Fun Facts

- Pine cones hold the seeds of a tree.
- The shape of the pine cone keeps the seeds safe.
- So throwing pine cones will help spread the seeds.
- Pine nuts come from pine cones.



Questions

1. What are other ways the pine cones or seeds can move?
2. What kinds of trees make pine cones?
3. Most plants make seeds so they can reproduce. How do other plants make their seeds? How do they get spread?

Fort Forest



What kind of structure can you create?



Fort Forest

 **Activities:** **Duration: 10-40 min**

- Create a fort with the large materials in this area. Use the sticks, bamboo, palm leaves, and branches to create shelter.
- Challenge yourself to build a free standing fort. This means the fort isn't balancing on a tree, it holds itself up on its own.
- Use your imagination and have fun!

 **Fun Facts**

- Wood and other natural materials were a common building material and used by humans to build shelter throughout history.
- The Ohlone people would build their sleeping houses by leaning redwood bark against poles tied together.

 **Questions**

1. What is your favourite part of your fort?
2. How have you made your fort stable? Is it strong enough to stand against strong wind?
3. How many people can fit in your fort? Do you enjoy welcoming others inside?

Kitchen Garden



Do any of these plants look familiar to you?



Kitchen Garden



Activities:

Duration: 5-15 min

- Take a walk through the Kitchen Garden with the kids and see what plants they recognize.
- Look at what's growing to see what's in season.
- Observe the trees and their natural fruiting cycles (buds, blooms, fruits, seeds)



Fun Facts'

- Broccoli is made up of many unopened blossom buds.
- Pumpkins, tomatoes, and green beans are classified as fruits in botany.
- Although raspberries and blackberries are technically numerous little fruits, they have the appearance of a single berry.



Questions

1. How do we know if something is edible?
2. What part of the carrot plant do we eat?
3. How long does it take for our fruits and vegetables, to grow?
4. Are mushrooms considered a plant? If not, why?

Orchard



What time of year are we in? What do you notice?



Orchard



Activities:

Duration: 10-25 min

- Tree scavenger hunt: How many trees can you find? How do they differ from one another and how are they alike? Look for the name tags at the base of each individual tree to help you identify them.
- Scientific sketching of the life cycle of the trees (buds, flower, and fruit).
- Watch "change over time" in our orchard! Join us every season to observe and take notes of seasonal changes.



Fun Facts

- Most fruiting trees need some time to sleep during the winter months.
- Each tree has its preferred number of chill (cold weather) hours.
- Not all fruit ripens on the tree for example some pears.



Questions

1. Why do we need flowers in order to produce fruit?
2. Why is pollination so important? What are some examples of pollinators?
3. What would happen if pollinators disappeared?

Dusty Mountain



How many different rock colors/shapes can you find on this mountain?



Dusty Mountain

 **Activities:** **Duration: 10-30 min**

- Use the plant tray as a soil sifter, find different shaped/colored rocks and pebbles.
- Using the rocks found, create different patterns and shapes.
- Using some of the loose material, create different models (rivers, streams, and ponds).

 **Fun Facts**

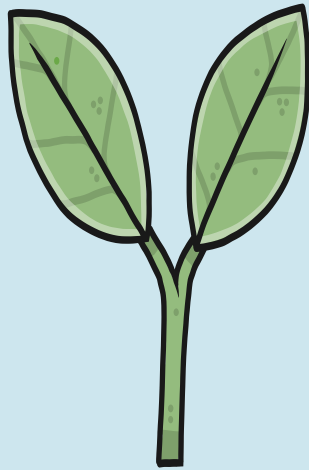
- A rock scientist is called a Petrologist; however, many other scientists study rocks as well.
- Chalk, glass, and soil all contain or are composed of rocks.

 **Questions**

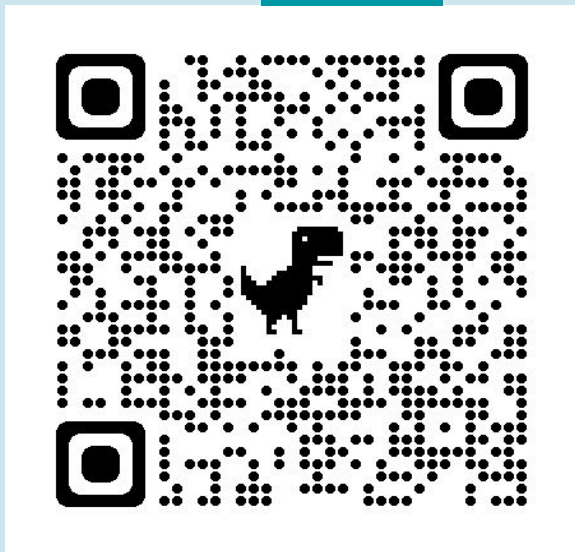
1. How many different patterns can you make?
2. Where do you think these rocks came from?
3. Can you find a rock the size of your eye?



Thanks for using our playing cards



Give us [feedback!](#)



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