

**EXPLORE THE RAINFOREST  
WITH THE**

# **TROPICAL TREKKERS!**

**AT THE  
CONSERVATORY  
OF FLOWERS**





## What are tropical rainforests?

TROPICAL RAINFORESTS ARE FORESTS WITH TALL TREES, WARM WEATHER ALL YEAR, AND LOTS OF RAIN.

## Where are the tropics?

THE TROPICS ARE REGIONS OF THE EARTH SURROUNDING THE EQUATOR.

Join the Tropical Trekkers on a journey through the rainforest.

LOOK FOR TROPICAL PLANTS AND FLOWERS AS YOU EXPLORE THE GALLERIES.

✓ CHECK OFF THE PLANTS AS YOU FIND THEM!



San Francisco



Orchid



Cloud Forest



Pineapple



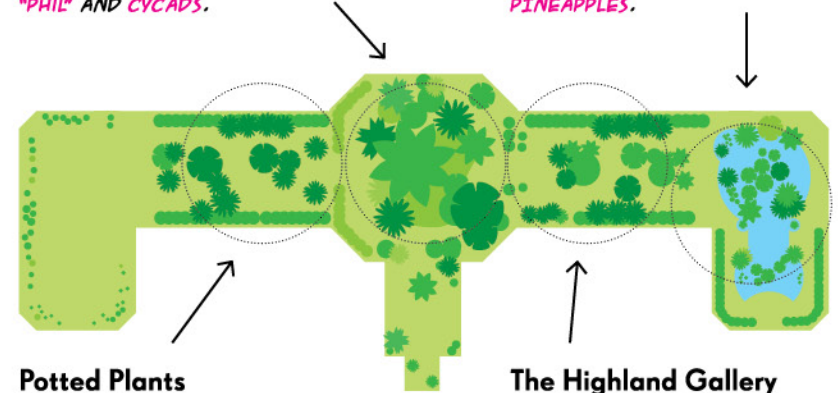
Pitcher Plant

### The Lowland Gallery

FEEL THE LIGHT RAIN FALLING IN THE LUSH JUNGLES OF THE LOWLAND GALLERY. SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT CACAO PODS, TROPICAL FRUITS, "PHIL" AND CYCADS.

### The Aquatic Gallery

THE MAGICAL POOLS IN THE AQUATIC GALLERY SIMULATE A RIVER WINDING THROUGH THE TROPICS. SEARCH FOR PITCHER PLANTS, BROMELIADS AND PINEAPPLES.



### Potted Plants

EXPERIENCE RARE FLOWERING PLANTS POTTED IN AN INCREDIBLE ASSORTMENT OF DECORATIVE URNS AND CONTAINERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

### The Highland Gallery

EXPERIENCE THE MISTY MOUNTAINTOP FORESTS IN THE HIGHLAND GALLERY. LOOK FOR TREE FERNS AND DRACULA ORCHIDS.

### DID YOU KNOW?

SAN FRANCISCO GETS AN AVERAGE OF 20 INCHES OF RAIN A YEAR.



MOST RAINFORESTS GET 200 INCHES OF RAIN A YEAR!

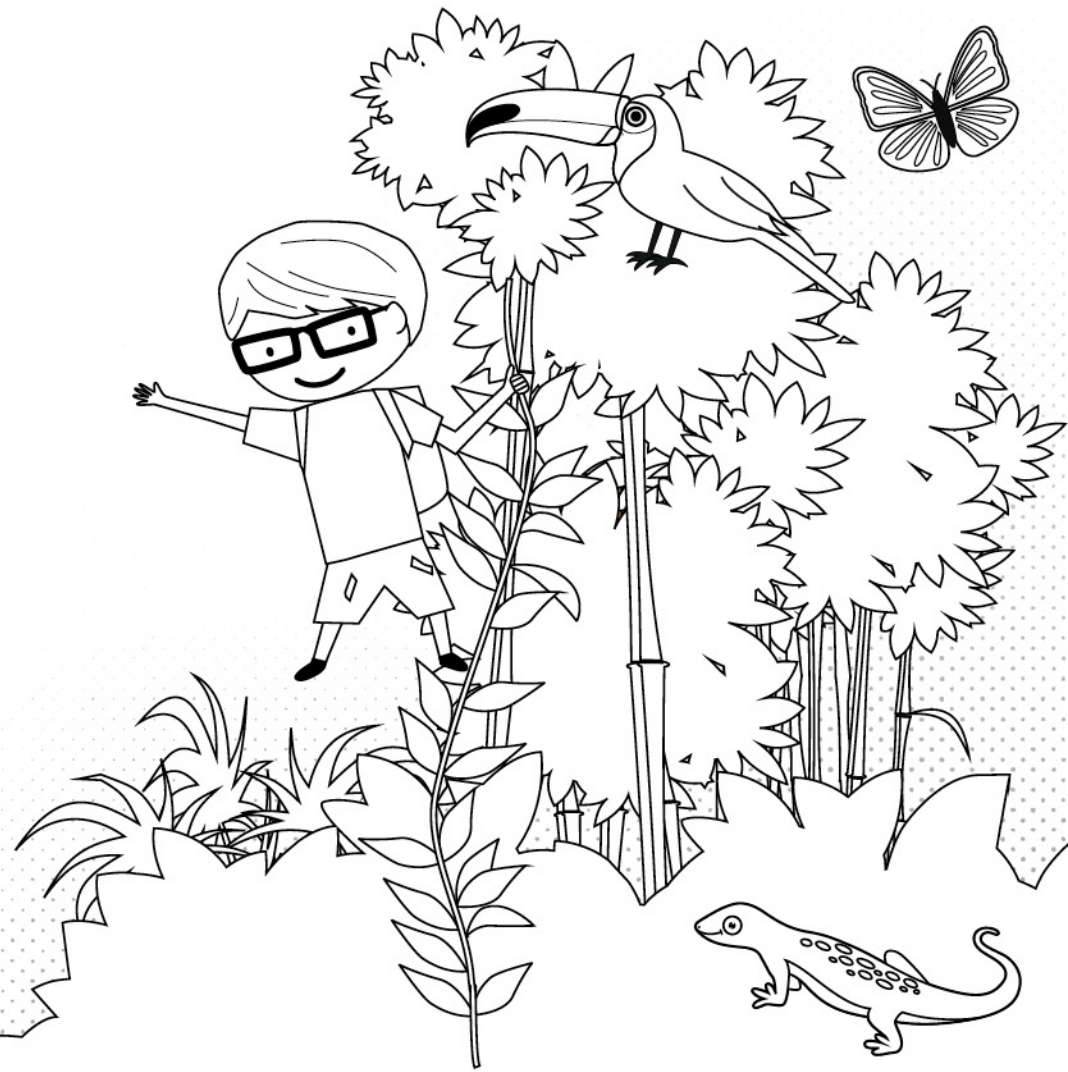


# TROPICAL VINES



SOME PLANTS START AS SEEDLINGS HIGH UP IN TREES. THEIR ROOTS SPIRAL DOWNWARD SO THEY CAN ABSORB WATER AND NUTRIENTS FROM THE SOIL.

OTHER VINES START AS SEEDLINGS ON THE FOREST FLOOR AND CLIMB UP OTHER PLANTS TO GET TO SUNLIGHT.



## Where's "Phil"?

THE CONSERVATORY'S MOST FAMOUS PLANT IS A VINE THAT IS OVER 100 YEARS OLD. "PHIL" IS AN IMPERIAL PHILODENDRON IN THE LOWLAND GALLERY. EACH OF PHIL'S GIANT LEAVES ARE 3-FEET WIDE AND 5-FEET TALL!

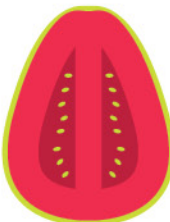



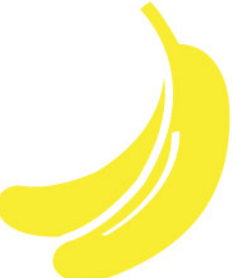
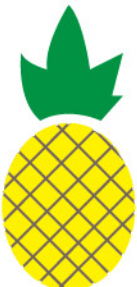




# TROPICAL FRUITS AND SPICES!

THESE FRUITS AND SPICES CAN BE FOUND IN THE CONSERVATORY BLOOMING AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE YEAR:

- |          |        |           |
|----------|--------|-----------|
| BANANA   | CURRY  | PINEAPPLE |
| CACAO    | GUAVA  | STARFRUIT |
| CINNAMON | PAPAYA | VANILLA   |
| COCONUT  |        |           |



**Coconut Palm**  
 A COCONUT IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST SEEDS! THE COCONUT MILK INSIDE THE SEED PROVIDES THE SEEDLING WITH THE NUTRIENTS IT NEEDS TO SPROUT.



**Pineapple**  
 IN THE VICTORIAN ERA, WHEN THE CONSERVATORY WAS BUILT, PINEAPPLES WERE SO RARE THAT THEY WERE GIVEN AS GIFTS TO KINGS AND WERE EVEN RENTED TO DISPLAY AT PARTIES.

**Banana Plant**  
 A CLUSTER OF BANANAS IS CALLED A "HAND", AND A SINGLE BANANA IS CALLED A "FINGER".



**Cacao Pods**  
 MONKEYS HATE CHOCOLATE! CACAO PODS CONTAIN DOZENS OF SEEDS THAT PEOPLE MAKE INTO CHOCOLATE. MONKEYS PREFER THE SWEET PULP IN CACAO PODS AND SPIT THE SEEDS OUT.



# WHAT IS A CARNIVOROUS PLANT?



Carnivorous plants get most of their nutrients from trapping and consuming animals. They...

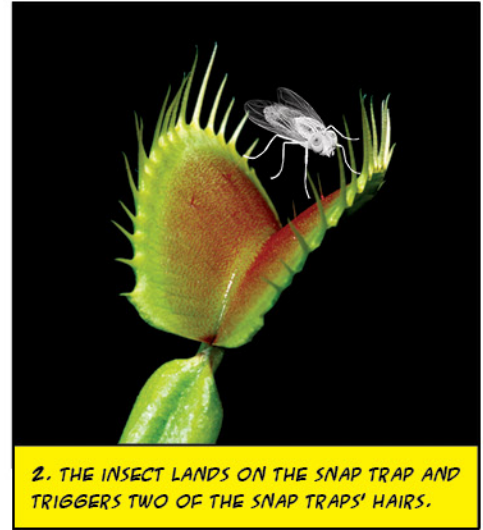
- **ATTRACT** AND CAPTURE ANIMALS, MOSTLY INSECTS
- **KILL** ANIMALS, USUALLY BY DROWNING
- **DISSOLVE** AND DIGEST THE ANIMALS, SOMETIMES WITH THE HELP OF BACTERIA AND OTHER ALLIES
- **ABSORB** THE NUTRIENTS IN THE ANIMALS' TISSUES

**YIKES!**

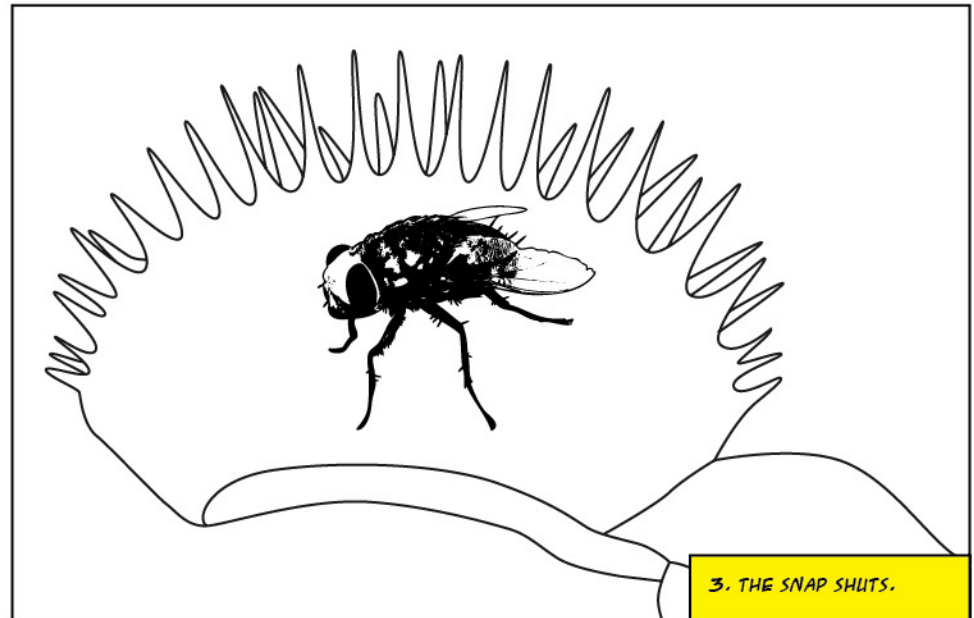


# SNAP TRAPS ATTACK!

1. AN INSECT SEES A SNAP TRAP, SMELLS THE NECTAR, AND THINKS IT'S A FLOWER.




2. THE INSECT LANDS ON THE SNAP TRAP AND TRIGGERS TWO OF THE SNAP TRAP'S HAIRS.



3. THE SNAP SHUTS.



# PITFALL PITCHER PLANTS



INSECTS ARE DRAWN TO THE PITCHER PLANT'S OPENING BECAUSE IT IS BRIGHTLY COLORED AND IS OFTEN COATED WITH SWEET NECTAR. THE INSECT FEEDS ON ITS SLIPPERY SURFACE, UNAWARE OF THE DANGER.

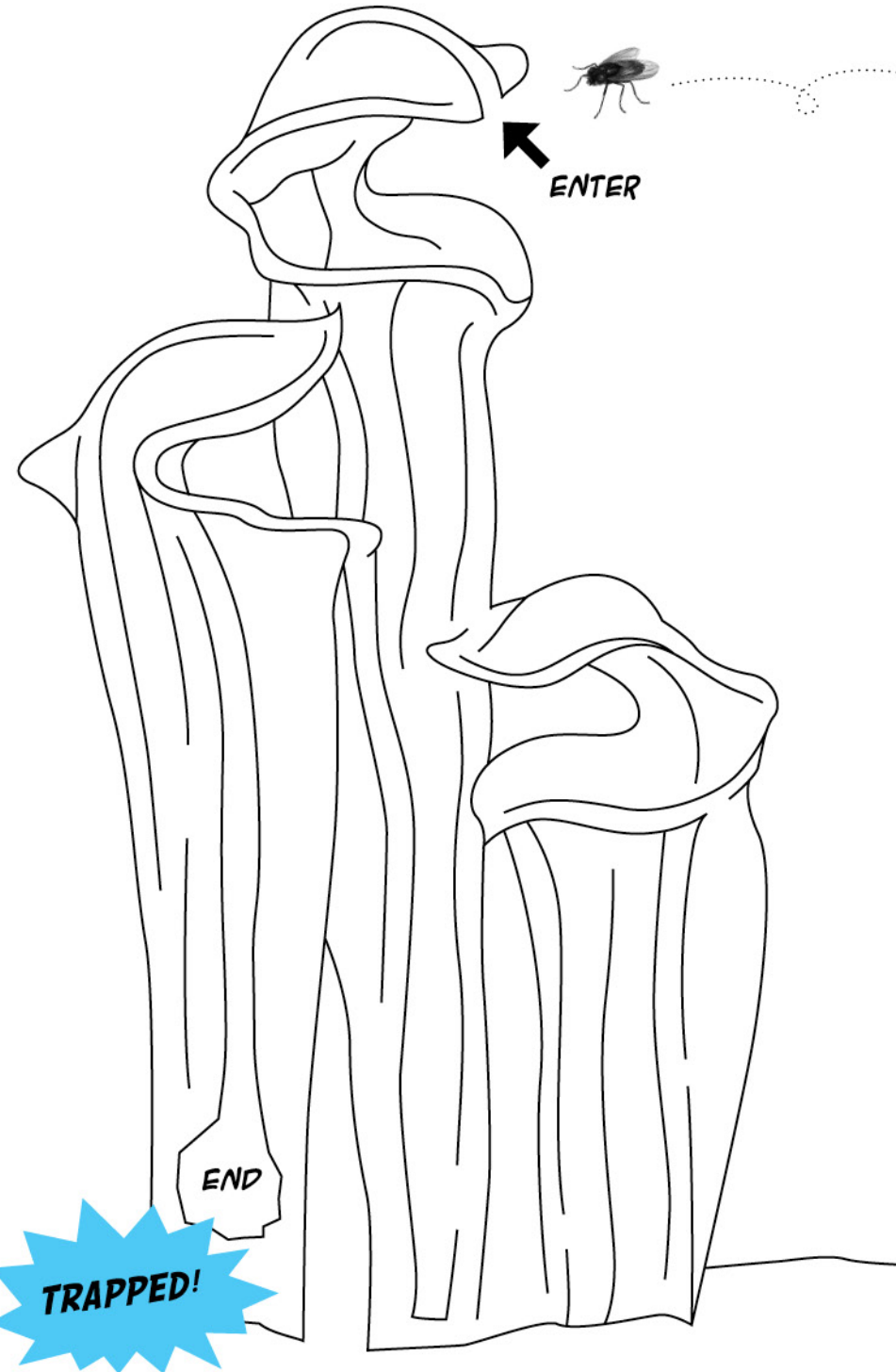


■ Pitcher Plant

WITH JUST ONE SLIP IT CAN FALL INTO THE PIT! IF IT DOES, IT IS DOOMED THE WAXY PIT WALLS ARE TOO SLICK TO CLIMB--THEY ARE LINED WITH DOWNWARD-POINTING HAIRS THAT BLOCK ESCAPE--AND THE QUARTERS ARE TOO CRAMPED FOR THE INSECT TO USE ITS WINGS.



THE INSECT REACHES THE BOTTOM OF THE PITCHER, WHICH IS FLOODED WITH DIGESTIVE ENZYMES AND HUNGRY BACTERIA. THE BUG DROWNS, AND DIGESTION BEGINS.





# FRAGRANT FLOWERS

DRAW YOUR FAVORITE FLOWER THAT YOU SAW TODAY.



■ Bromeliad



■ Water Lily



■ Orchid

THESE FLOWERS USE BRIGHT COLORS TO ATTRACT THE BIRDS, BEETLES, AND TROPICAL BEES THAT POLLINATE THEM.

OTHER FLOWERS ARE DULL AND BROWN AND SMELL TERRIBLE TO ATTRACT THEIR FLY POLLINATORS. THE FLIES ARE TRICKED INTO THINKING THE FLOWER IS A ROTTEN FRUIT, A MUSHROOM, OR ANIMAL DUNG.



Pipevine



Amorphophallus



■ Dracula Orchid



# DINOSAUR FOOD!

FERNS AND CYCADS WERE FOOD FOR DINOSAURS OVER 200 MILLION YEARS AGO AND THESE ANCIENT PLANTS CAN STILL BE FOUND IN RAINFORESTS TODAY.



■ Maidenhair Fern



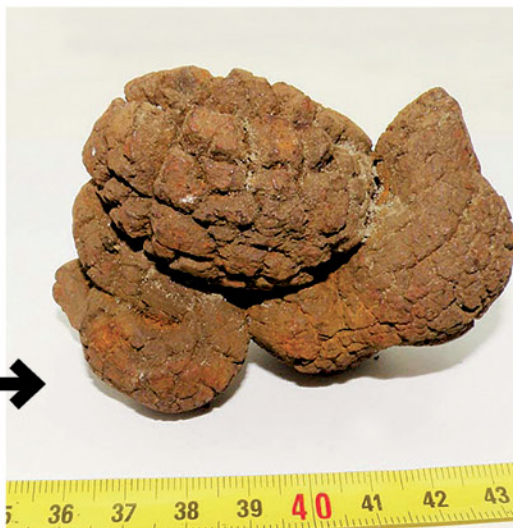
■ Tree Fern



■ Cycad

How do we know what dinosaurs ate?

SCIENTISTS LOOK AT FOSSILIZED DINO DUNG, CALLED "COPROLITES" FOR EVIDENCE OF PLANTS OR BONES FROM PREY ANIMALS.



WORD SEARCH! FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS BELOW.

PREHISTORIC

FERN

STEGOSAURUS

DINOSAUR

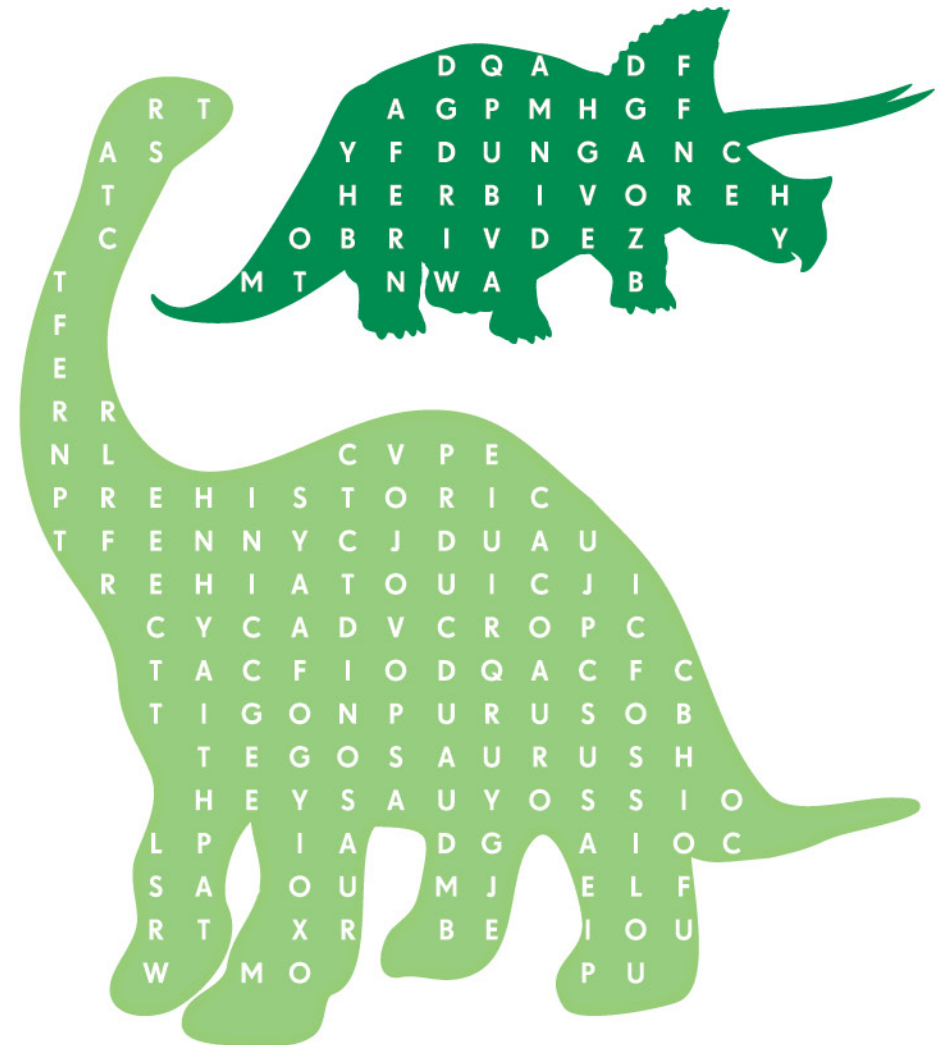
HERBIVORE

FOSSIL

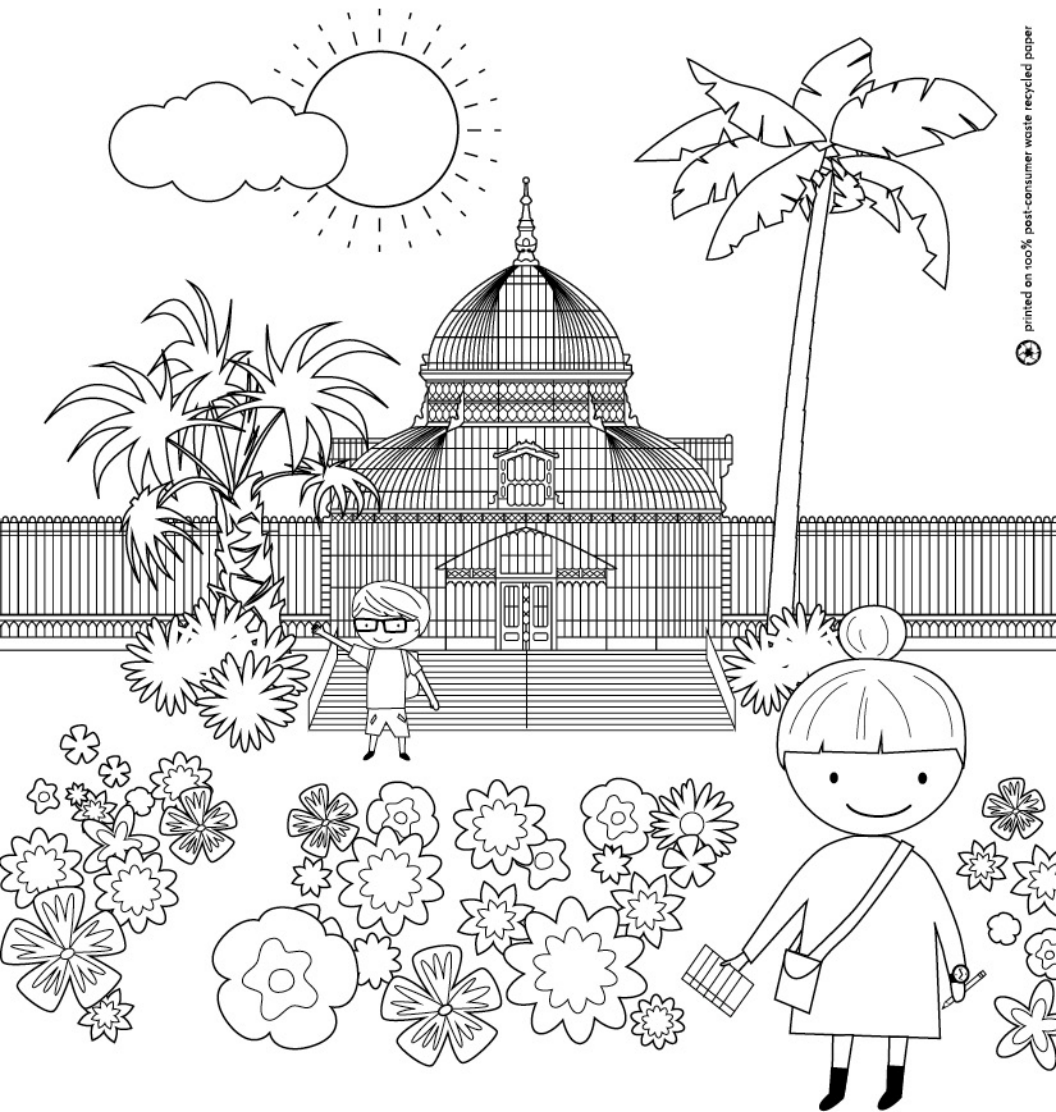
CYCAD

JURASSIC

DUNG







**This Explorer's Notebook belongs to:**

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