

Conservatory of Flowers



HIGH SCHOOL SELF GUIDED TOUR

Welcome to the Conservatory of Flowers!

Please complete the following activities. Each one should take approximately 20 minutes. If time allows, make sure to check out the special exhibit.

Remember to respect other guests at the Conservatory and keep the plants safe. Please do not touch any of the plants.

Name _____

Date _____

Teacher _____

Period _____

Part One: Leaf Observation

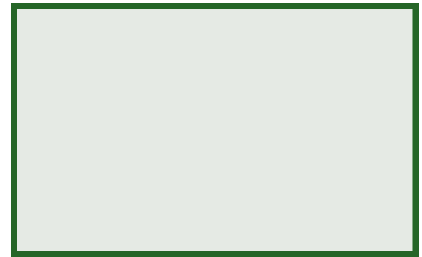
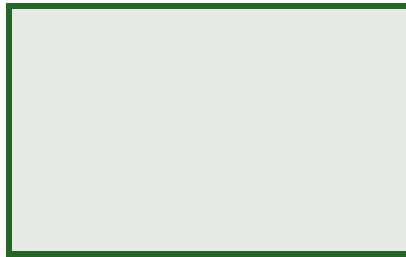
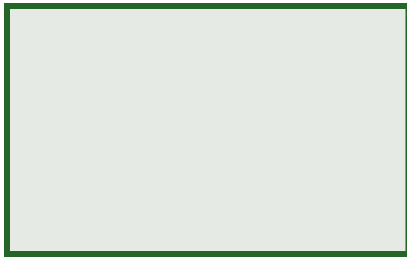
For this activity, you should be in the Aquatic Plants Gallery

Every plant's leaves have adapted to its environment, depending on the availability of sun, air, water, and nutrients. The following are plants with unique types of leaves, each adapted for their specific habitats. Find these three plants, and observe their leaf size, shape, color, and placement. Draw a sketch of each plants' leaves.

Bromeliads, *Bromeliaceae* family

Pitcher Plant, *Nepenthes* sp.

Medinilla, *Medinilla myriantha*



1. Plant Name:

2. Plant Name:

3. Plant Name:

Origin/Native Habitat:

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Describe Leaf Characteristics:

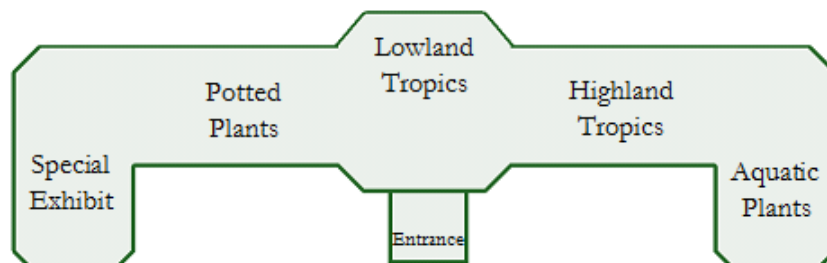
Describe Leaf Characteristics:

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Possible benefits to the plant for having this type of leaf:

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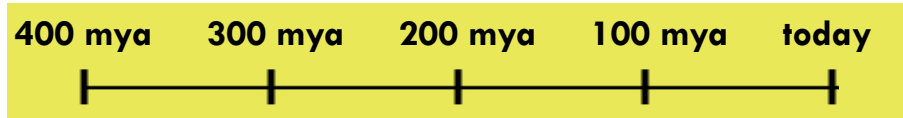
Map of the Conservatory of Flowers

Part Two: Evolution Scavenger Hunt

For this activity, you should be in the Lowland Tropics Gallery

Plants have been evolving for quite some time. The earliest known algae fossils date back to about 3 billion years ago. Those species of algae could only survive in the water. We have found fossils of land-based algae from about 1200 million years ago (mya). Most plants we see today are more recently evolved. The following timeline describes the evolution of several common plant groups.

Find one example of each of the following plant groups. Write its common name and scientific name.



Ferns
380 mya

Cycads
280 mya

Palms
80 mya

Common Name:

Latin Name:

Hint: A species' latin name is usually two words. For example, humans are known as *Homo sapiens*.

Which of these plants produce flowers and fruit? How do you think flowers and fruit allow these plants to reproduce?

Which plants do not produce flowers and fruit? How do you think they reproduce?

Bonus question: Do you know how long ago human beings came into existence?

Part Three: Victorian Era History Matching Game

For this activity, you should be in the Potted Plants Gallery

Victorian art and architecture plays an important role in the history of the Conservatory of Flowers, as well as of San Francisco. Check out the laminated photos and match each one to its written description.

1. When was the Victorian Era?
2. Where did the Conservatory building come from?
3. What happened in this area in 1906? In 1995?
5. Why are potted plants and conservatories associated with the Victorian Era?