

Middle School Self-Guided Tour Teacher Information

We're glad you can join us for a self-guided tour at the Conservatory of Flowers with your middle school group! The purpose of this sheet is to provide you with everything you need to know for the trip. Please make sure to read over this document as well as the attached teacher's edition of the worksheet before your trip, and if you have any questions or have not yet scheduled your field trip, please contact Erika Frank, Director of Volunteer Services, at efrank@sfcof.org or (415) 637-4326. Reservations are required.

Each student should bring a pencil and clipboard or other hard surface to write on.

Directions & Checking In

The Conservatory of Flowers is located at 100 John F. Kennedy Drive in the northeastern section of Golden Gate Park. Free four-hour parking is available along JFK Drive.

The Conservatory of Flowers can be accessed from MUNI lines 5, 21, 33, and 44.

For more information about getting to the Conservatory, please visit www.conservatoryofflowers.org/visit

When you arrive, please check in at the ticket booth in front of the Conservatory's main entrance. They will provide you with copies of the student handout and a free admission ticket for the group.

There are no restrooms inside the Conservatory, but there are public bathrooms just to the left (west) of the building.

When you leave, make sure to leave the matching game cards back at the ticket booth.

Conservatory Rules

No food or drinks are permitted inside the Conservatory. The steps and lawn in front are a great place for a snack or lunch.

Students should understand that they are not permitted to touch any of the plants. Some of them are very sensitive to human touch, some are sharp, and some are even poisonous!

Cell phones and other handheld electronic devices are allowed for picture-taking only. There should be no talking on phones or music playing inside the Conservatory.

Activities

While in the Conservatory, students will rotate through the building, completing two activities as listed on their handout. They will go on a history scavenger hunt, and complete an activity about rare plants and ecology.

Each activity should last about 25 minutes, and the entire tour should last about one hour. Please feel free to visit the (always changing) special exhibit if you have time.

Groups and Chaperones

Please divide your class into groups of no more than 7 students. Each group needs to have at least one adult chaperone. It works well to have an even number of groups, half of them beginning with Activity One and the other half with Activity Two. After each 25-minute activity, each group will rotate to the other activity. It may be helpful to appoint a "time-keeper" in each group.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SELF GUIDED TOUR

Welcome to the Conservatory of Flowers!

Please complete the following activities. Each one should take approximately 20 minutes. Make sure to save 10-15 minutes to check out the special exhibit and any other areas you may have missed.

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: History Scavenger Hunt

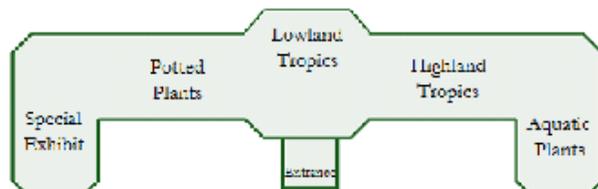
Instructions: Find each plant or event listed below in the Conservatory's entrance and Lowland Tropics Galleries. Read the signs about the plant or event, and fill in the missing information in the timeline.

| | 1000 | 1200 | 1400 | 1600 | 1800 | 2000 |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| Year | 1000 | 1500s | 1800s | | | current year |
| Event | Coffee first domesticated | Cocoa brought to Europe | | Conservatories become popular | | My field trip to the C.O.F. |
| Fun Fact | It grows in the shade | Grown all over tropics today | | invention of sheet glass makes possible | | Many possible answers! |
| Latin Name | <i>Coffea arabica</i> | <i>Theobroma cacao</i> | | | | |

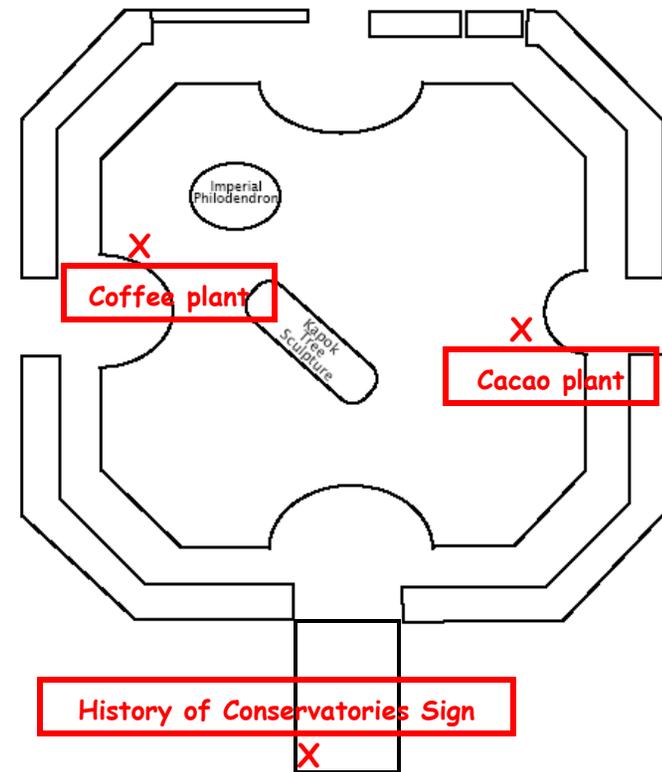
Hint: A species' latin name is usually two words. For example, humans are known as *Homo sapiens*.

Last, list one additional event from the informational sign in the entrance room, and explain its historical significance:

Many possible answers



TEACHER ANSWER KEY



Part Two: Rare Plant Ecology

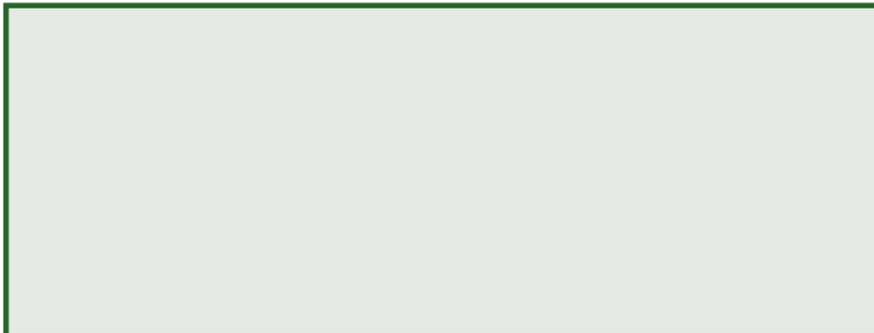
1. What roles do plants play in ecosystems?

Food, shelter/habitat, regulates carbon dioxide/oxygen, prevents erosion

2. Pick one of the following plants. All of these plants are considered to be threatened, endangered, or rare in their natural habitats.

- Tortoise Plant, *Disocaris macrostachya*
Located in the Potted Plants Gallery
- Pitcher Plant, *Nepenthes species and subspecies*
Located in the Aquatics Gallery
- Giant Dioon/Cycad, *Dioon spinulosum*
Located in the Lowland Tropics Gallery

3. Sketch the plant of your choice.



4. What other plants and animals do you think would share this plants' habitat? Draw and label at least three other organisms in the picture above.

5. What do you think the ecological impact in the habitat you drew would be if the plant you chose went extinct?

**Source of food and shelter for animals would disappear.
Opportunity for competing/invasive plants to take over.**

6. List three human activities that affect plants' ability to survive in the wild.

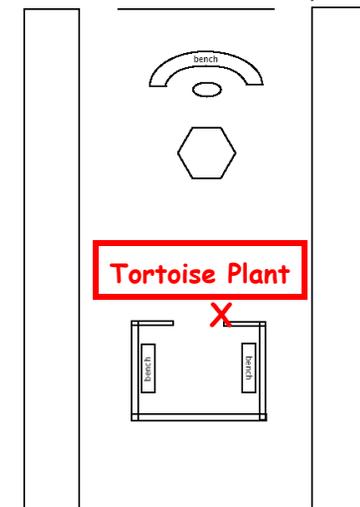
- Development and deforestation- takes away habitat**
- Pollution- some chemicals can harm plants**
- Hunting animals that are connected to plants through food web**

7. List three things humans can do to help these plants make a comeback.

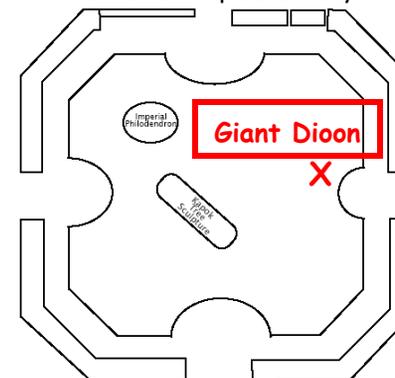
- Plant more of these rare/endangered plants in their native ecosystems**
- Restore natural conditions that these plants need to survive**
- Protect areas of habitat for these plants**

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Potted Plants Gallery



Lowland Tropics Gallery



Aquatics Gallery

