

3-5

ACTIVITY WORKBOOK

GROWING AT
The Ringling



Welcome to the Bayfront Gardens!

The Ringling Museum is known for art and circus collections, but did you know it is also home to lots of gardens? Today you will be going on an adventure to find plants and animals. Use your workbook to learn about different plants in the gardens and to draw the things that you see.

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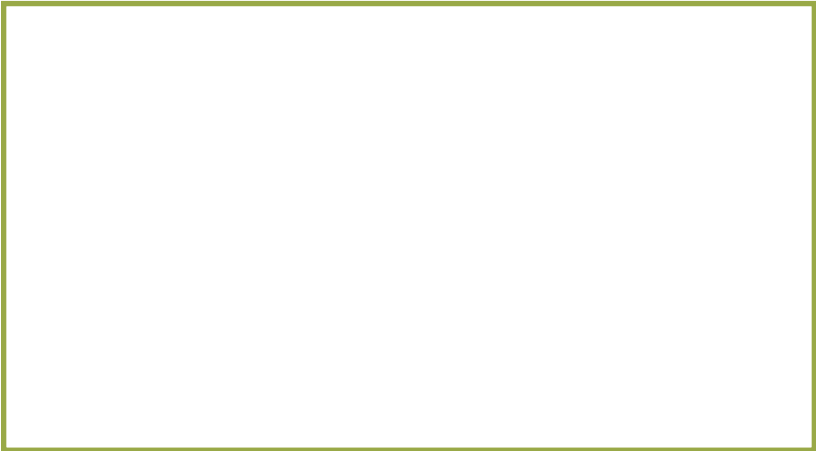
Sketch and Sniff

Go to the Rose Garden marked on your map.

There are a lot of roses in this garden! Walk around and find a rose bush you think looks really interesting. Sit down on the pathway. **Draw** the rose bush paying attention to small details. **Label** the structures of the bush using the word bank below, and describe that structure's role in the plant: food production, reproduction, support, or defense.

WORD BANK

Stem, leaf, vegetative branch, roots, flower, petal, bud, prickle



How many of these plant structures were on your plant?
Which of the structures did you not see today?

The labels by the rose plant show us the name of the rose, and the date it was created. Over time roses were made to be larger and more colorful, but many lost their smell. Smell a rose that was created before 1940. How does the smell compare to a rose created after 2010?

Florida Natives

Go to the Millennium Tree Trail marked on your map.

There are many types of trees on this trail. Walk around the trail and look carefully at all the trees. **List** three trees that are native to Florida below, do a quick sketch, and make a few notes about their characteristics.

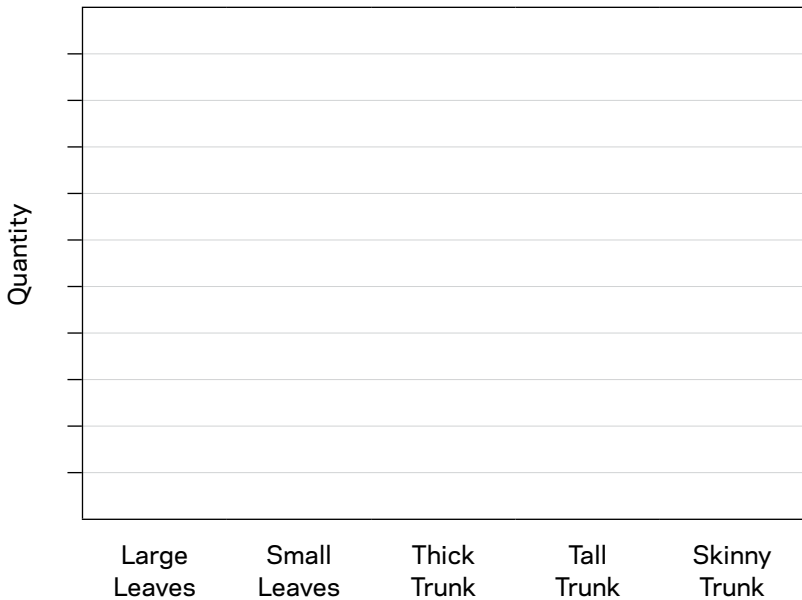
Common Name			
Place of origin			
Describe how it looks			
Describe or sketch its leaves			
Sketch it!			

Which of your Florida trees was the rarest (had the least) in this garden?

Which of these trees was the most common (had the most)?

Why do you think there were so many of that type of tree?

Graph your data on a bar graph below.



Pond Life

Go to the pond as labeled on your map. Examine the wildlife found in this ecosystem.

Using the space below, **sketch** a view of the pond's ecosystem including animals and plants.

Label one producer, one consumer, and one decomposer.



What would happen if one of the plants or animals disappeared?

What would happen if a human moved into this ecosystem?

An **ecosystem** is a community of interacting organisms and their environment.

A **producer** creates energy from the sun.

A **consumer** creates energy by eating a producer.

A **decomposer** creates energy by eating and breaking down dead plants and animals.

Banyan Blast!

Head over to the Banyan tree near the Playspace marked on your map.

Originally from India, Banyan trees are rare in the United States and are only found in South Florida. Banyan trees play an important role in Indian mythology. Buddha would sit under the Banyan while meditating and teaching, and they remain a common meeting place in India today. Banyan trees are still considered by many to be immortal, or unable to die.

Banyan trees are hemi-epiphytes, meaning they spend part of their lives using another plant for support. Young Banyan trees attach themselves to a host tree and send down long hanging roots, eventually strong enough to stand on its own. Can you **find** a host tree hidden in the Banyan roots?

Banyan trees are also called strangler figs. They are called that for the way the tree attaches itself to a host and appears to be strangling it. Figs are a type of fruit. Why might Banyan trees produce figs? What role do fruits play in the reproductive cycle?

Banyan trees have long roots that shoot from the canopy down into the ground, making it look like dozens of pillars. How might this structure protect the tree in blistering sun? A hurricane? A flood?



- 1** Mable's Rose Garden
- 2** Millennium Tree Trail

- 3** Pond
- 4** Banyan Grove

- ★ Entrance
- Restrooms

HOURS

All Venues Open Daily 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Museum of Art & Circus Museum
 Open Thursdays until 8:00 PM

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The Ringling

THE JOHN & MABLE RINGLING
 MUSEUM OF ART

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