

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Discovery Program Teacher and Chaperone Guide

Use this *Guide* with the *Garden Map* to encourage students to continue their scientific investigation throughout the *Garden*.



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23228
(804) 262-9887
www.lewisginter.org

Use Your Five Senses

Gardens show a different face with each new season. Look for our "Bright Spots" flags for current blooms.

West Island Garden

(15 minute round trip)

This wetland environment shows unique plants found in areas where water is near the surface of the soil year round. Water saturation controls soil development and the types of plant and animal communities that develop. The upper layer of soil is a thick layer of organic material that decomposes slowly. Wetland plants have many different adaptations for living under these conditions.

- look for**
- pitcher plants & Venus fly trap
 - blue gill and mosquito fish in the water
 - turtles basking on the shore
 - great blue heron, who is a frequent visitor
 - knees of the bald cypress

Asian Valley Garden

(30 minute round trip)

Asian Valley displays plants native to East Asia which can grow in Virginia's climate. It evokes the spirit of Asian garden design with dramatic tree forms, cascading water and the inclusion of rocks as a major design element. This garden celebrates the sacredness of nature and provides a place for quiet contemplation.

- listen for**
- sound of water rolling over the waterfall
 - crickets and small song birds
- feel the**
- rough, cool stones
 - feathery seed heads of the grasses

Conservatory

(45 minute round trip)

The Conservatory houses unusual plants from around the world. The 63-foot-tall dome contains the Garden's palm collection. The semi-tropical East Wing features orchids and bromeliads. The North and West Wings exhibit seasonal displays. The cactus collection can be found off the North Wing. *We recommend touring in small chaperone led groups.*

feel the • moist air in the tropical East Wing

look for • flowers that resemble insects

• plants that hold tiny pools of water

• plant adaptations for defense

smell the • fragrance of blossoms in West Wing

Woodland Walk in Flagler Perennial Garden

(alternate 30 minute round trip)

This garden features the layering of a deciduous forest: *canopy* of tall trees, *understory* of young trees and shrubs, and *herb layer* of perennials, ferns, and mosses. When the trees shed their leaves, a thick layer forms on the forest floor, decays and enriches the soil resulting in a fertile habitat for fungi, earthworms, and insects. Small birds and mammals eat these organisms. Larger creatures, such as snakes, hawks, and fox, prey upon these smaller animals. Deciduous forests provide abundant food for a variety of life-forms. Each level provides different habitats for wildlife and assures a rich diversity of organisms.

look for • different animals at each forest level

• signs of animal activity

feel the • cool breezes and mosses in damp areas