



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Quick Self-Guided Field Trip Activity Ideas

Pre-K

English Language Arts	Go on a letter walk in the Garden. Look at the signs throughout the Garden for beginning letters.
Math	Go on a color or shape walk in the Garden. Look for colors or squares, circles, triangles, etc.
Art	Bring different art media (crayons, colored pencils, etc) and have students create artwork.

Grades K-2

English Language Arts	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students draw a picture and write about their experience in that space.
	Read books about gardens before your trip. While you are visiting the Garden, compare what was in the book with what you see.
	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students draw and describe a specific plant. Collect the drawings and descriptions and pass them out. (Each student should not have his/her own drawing.) Have students use the descriptions to try to find each other's plants.
Math	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students count how many different types of plants are in a garden bed.
	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students make a map or plan of a garden bed. Collect the maps and pass them out. (Each student should not have his/her own map.) Have students use the maps/plans to find the garden bed their classmate depicted or marked on their map.
	Bring rulers or other units of measurement. Have students measure and record leaf size, plant size, garden bed size, etc. Graph the results.
Art	Bring different art media (crayons, colored pencils, etc.) and have students create artwork.



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Quick Self-Guided Field Trip Activity Ideas

Grades 3-5

English Language Arts	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students write a poem about their experience in that space.
	While you are visiting the Garden, have the students take photos or create quick sketches. When you are back in school, have students create a story or book about their field trip using their images.
	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students draw and describe a leaf, flower or plant. Collect the drawings and descriptions and pass them out. (Each student should not have his/her own drawing.) Have students use the descriptions to try to find the same leaf, flower or plant.
Math	Choose a Garden bed. Have students calculate the fraction or percentage of a certain plant in that bed. (For example, in the Buehler Enabling Garden, there are small garden beds. This past spring, one bed had 5 pansy plants, 10 basil plants, and 8 mint plants. The fraction of pansies is: $\frac{5}{23}$ or 0.217 or %22.)
	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students make a map a garden bed. Collect the maps and pass them out. (Each student should not have his/her own map.) Have students use the maps to try to find the garden bed marked on their classmate's map.
	Have students look for and classify angles and shapes in the Garden. Look for perpendicular and parallel lines, right angles, obtuse angles, acute angles, etc.
Art	Bring different art media (crayons, colored pencils, etc.) and have students create artwork.

Grades 6-12

English Language Arts	Choose a space in the Garden. Have students write about their experience in that space.
	While you are visiting the Garden, have small groups of students visit the Lenhardt Library.
Math	Bring measuring tapes or rulers. Choose a Garden planter. Have the students calculate the volume and/or area of the planter.
Art	Bring different art media (crayons, colored pencils, etc.) and have students create artwork.
	Go on a sculpture walk in the Garden. A list of sculptures is available at: www.chicagobotanic.org/sculpture . Sculpture Walk suggestions can be found at: www.chicagobotanic.org/walk/sculpturewalk .