



Taking A Senses Walk Through The Gardens

With your guidance, your students can enjoy a purposeful walk through the Gardens using their five senses. Encourage your students to be aware of how and why our senses are important to us as we learn about living things.

- Before you begin your walk, Tell students they are going to walk through the Gardens and USE their five senses.
- Use the chart in your packet to record their responses and discuss the information after your visit.

Please remember that students are allowed to pick up plant life that is on the pathways to examine and collect for future investigation. We leave the rest of our beautiful plants alone for others to enjoy.

Start your walk in the Rose Garden (#1). Some good questions to ask are:

- Which senses can you use in the rose garden to help you know where you are?
- What if you could not see? Close your eyes and what sense/s would you use to determine where you are?
- If you were going to describe this place to someone who was blind, what would you say?

Go into the Conservatory (#2). Describe how the temperature changes when you go into this building. Ask why they think this might be true? (Trapping heat from the sun - the "greenhouse effect")

- What do you notice about these plants?
- The conservatory has many different kinds of plants. Point out that the environment in this building allows some plants to grow year round that might not be able to grow outside. Ask students what are the conditions that make this environment different?

Walk into the Butterfly Garden (#3).

- Using your eyes, what do you immediately notice as you walk in?
- Observe an insect. Tell your teacher what you think it is doing? What senses did you use to answer the question?
- What colors do you see in this garden? Do you think these plants are here for a reason? Why or why not?

Walk to the South Terrace (#15).

- Stand beside the fountain in the middle of the terrace. What do you see in the pool? Count the fish. What do you think these fish need to stay alive?
- Close your eyes and what do you hear?
- Walk around and see how many different kinds of plants there are. Use your sense of sight and smell to describe the different kinds of plants.

Walk to the Exxon Mobil Bayou Boardwalk (#21).

- As you enter the boardwalk, notice the bamboo growing along either side of the entrance. Using their sense of touch, describe how the bamboo feels?
- What could bamboo be used for if you were going to build something? Is it strong enough? Look for the "shoots" coming up at ground level. Notice how tall the bamboo gets. How tall do you think it is? How fast do you think it grows?
- Pay attention to the informational panels along the boardwalk. Ask students to observe the water (if it is high tide) or the mud (if it is low tide). What senses can they use to find plants and animals as they walk along the boardwalk?
- How is the sense of smell used in this area? Describe the smells.

Continue your walk as you go around Mirror Lake (#29).

- Listen for birds as you walk along the paths. What words describe the different sounds the birds make?
- Smell the shrubbery and the flowers. Do you think color makes a difference in how plants smell?
- Look at the lake from different places. What things do you see at one place and not at another?
- Walk across the bridge. What senses do you use as you walk?

Walk along the exit path to the Asian-American Garden (#31).

- Is the water in this garden moving? What sense/s did you use to determine your answer?
- What animal life do you see in the garden? Can you hear any animals? What are they? (Don't forget bees and butterflies.)
- Walk over the bridge. What can you hear and see from the bridge. How is it different from the bridge over Mirror Lake?
- Are there any plants with an aroma in the garden? Describe the scent.

Finish your walk at the Bellingrath Gift Shop and Magnolia Café (#32):

- When you go into the gift shop and the café, what senses do you use? Are these sights and sounds and smells different from those in the Gardens? How are they different?



Taking A Senses Walk Through The Gardens Inventory List

This workshop kit includes:

- Hand-outs for each ADULT in the group (including chart for recording)
- Pencils
- 5 clipboards (for adult who is recording responses on chart)

Directions for this workshop:

- Gather your group together before beginning the walk
- Remind participants of the 5 senses (ask THEM what they know)
- Explain that participants will walk slowly and thoughtfully through the Gardens.
- Adults will accompany them and ask questions from the hand-out that will lead them to think of their senses as they walk. (Add any thoughts or ideas that participants want to discuss.)
- Adults should record the number of times the senses are used or mentioned by the participants.
- After the walk, compare charts and discuss the collected data.
- Use the data to discuss when you return to your school or organization to do more research on the senses.