

# We're visiting the Japanese Tea Garden!

A pre-visit social story for visiting classes



Hi Educators!

Please make a copy of this slide deck and adjust it as needed to your specific class trip details. If you have questions about accessibility, please reach out to: [education@gggp.org](mailto:education@gggp.org)  
We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Gardens of Golden Gate Youth Education Team

# What is a social story?

Social stories break down situations, such as visiting a new place, into clear, positive, step-by-step explanations. This makes them a powerful tool for teaching and setting expectations in a way that is supportive rather than overwhelming. They give people the confidence to navigate new or challenging experiences, easing anxiety and promoting independence.

A social story is a visual story that can help people understand expectations and emotions and generate regulated responses in a variety of situations. They are a tool originally developed for children with autism but have been useful for all people entering new situations.



We are going on a field trip to the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park! This is the oldest operating public Japanese Garden in North America, open since 1894.





To get to the Japanese Tea Garden we will take a bus, walk or carpool.



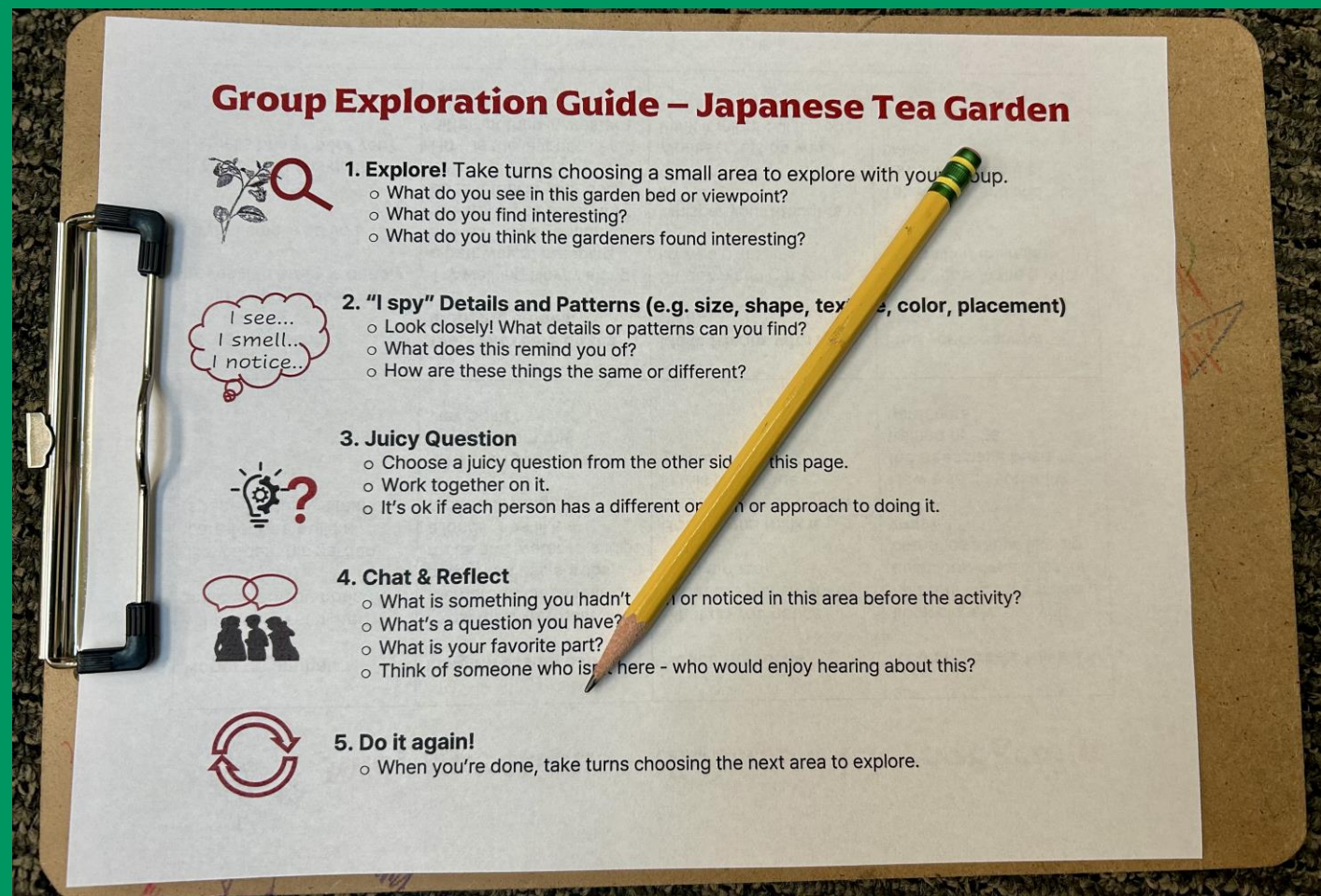


When our group is ready, a teacher will go by themselves to check in at the Entry Desk. Then, we will get into small groups, and a staff member will welcome us in. These staff members will also help us if we need anything, like first aid or lost and found.





We will explore the Japanese Tea Garden in small groups with an adult. Our teacher might have special activities planned!



While we are at the Garden, we will use walking feet, not running. We will also talk quietly, with whisper or normal talking voices.



Voice Zones	
4	Outside Voice Playground Talk
3	Loud Proud Voice Classroom Talk
2	Normal Voice Table Talk
1	Whisper Voice Partner Talk
0	Silent Voice No Talking



We will keep ourselves, the plants and animals safe by staying on the paths, making sure nothing falls into the ponds, and keeping off of the bamboo railings and trees.

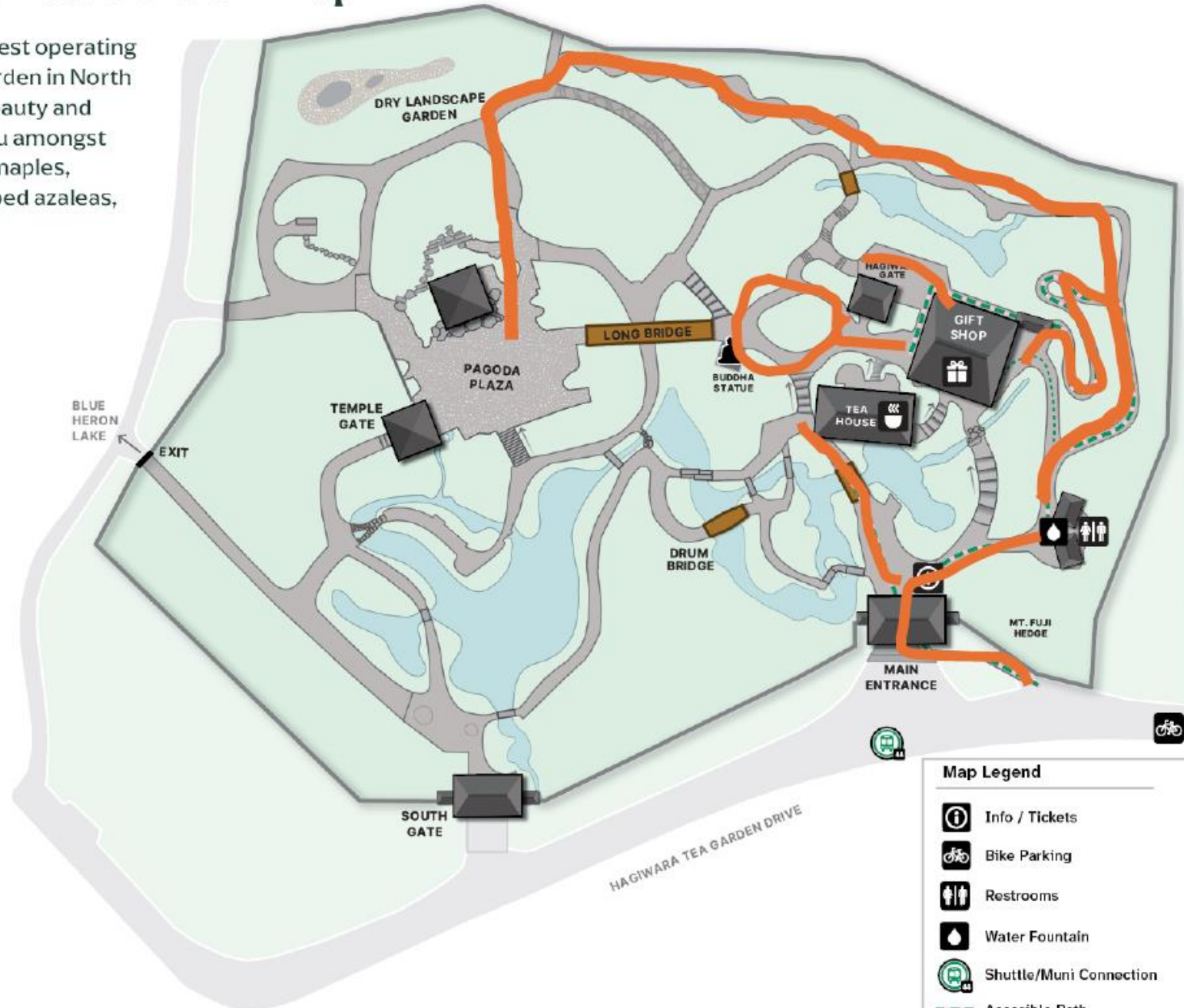




If I have trouble moving on stairs or steep slopes, I can follow these easier pathways, highlighted in orange.

## Japanese Tea Garden Map

Welcome to the oldest operating public Japanese Garden in North America. Natural beauty and tranquility greet you amongst graceful Japanese maples, twisting pines, clipped azaleas, and cherry trees.



JAPANESE  
TEA GARDEN  
日本庭園



In a Japanese Garden many features are designed as sculptures. We can use our imaginations to find other features. For example, on the left, is called a "moon bridge" because with its reflection it is round like a full moon. Or, on the right, is the Mt. Fuji hedge, shaped like a famous volcano.





Another purpose of a Japanese Tea Garden is to enjoy peaceful reflection. We can take some time here to do the same.





The Japanese Tea Garden is also a space of history that we can explore. For example, in 1953 children throughout Japan contributed to the purchase of this Peace Lantern as a symbol of friendship to the United States.



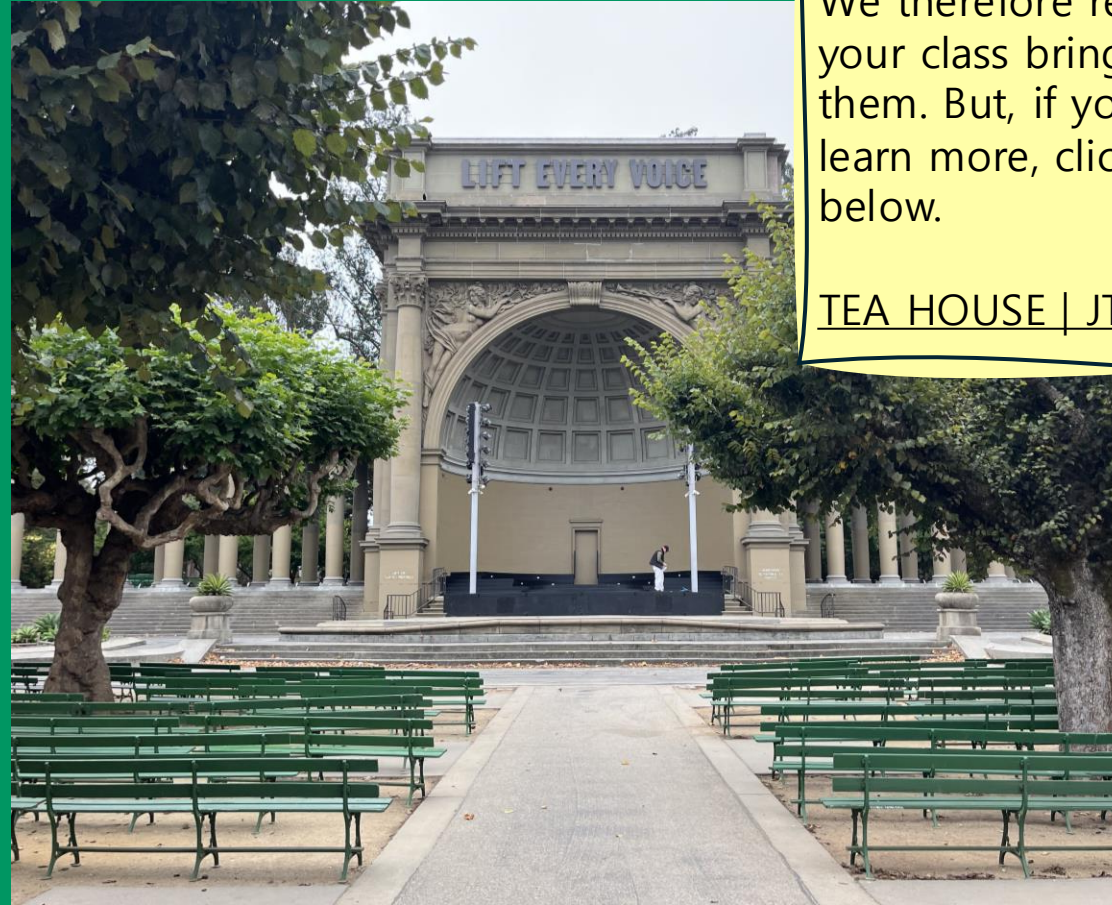


We can have fun exploring many different features in the Garden.





**Lunch or Snacks:** When we are hungry, we can picnic outside of the Gardens in the Music Concourse or other areas of Golden Gate Park.



The Tea House in the Garden is open but has limited options and seating. We therefore recommend your class bring food with them. But, if you want to learn more, click the link below.

[TEA HOUSE | JTGSE](#)





Once we complete our visit, we will head out of the Garden and go over the next part of our plan before heading back to school. We may send notes to Garden staff to tell them what our favorites were!

