

We're visiting the San Francisco Botanical 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

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Gardens of Golden Gate Youth Education Team

What is a social story?

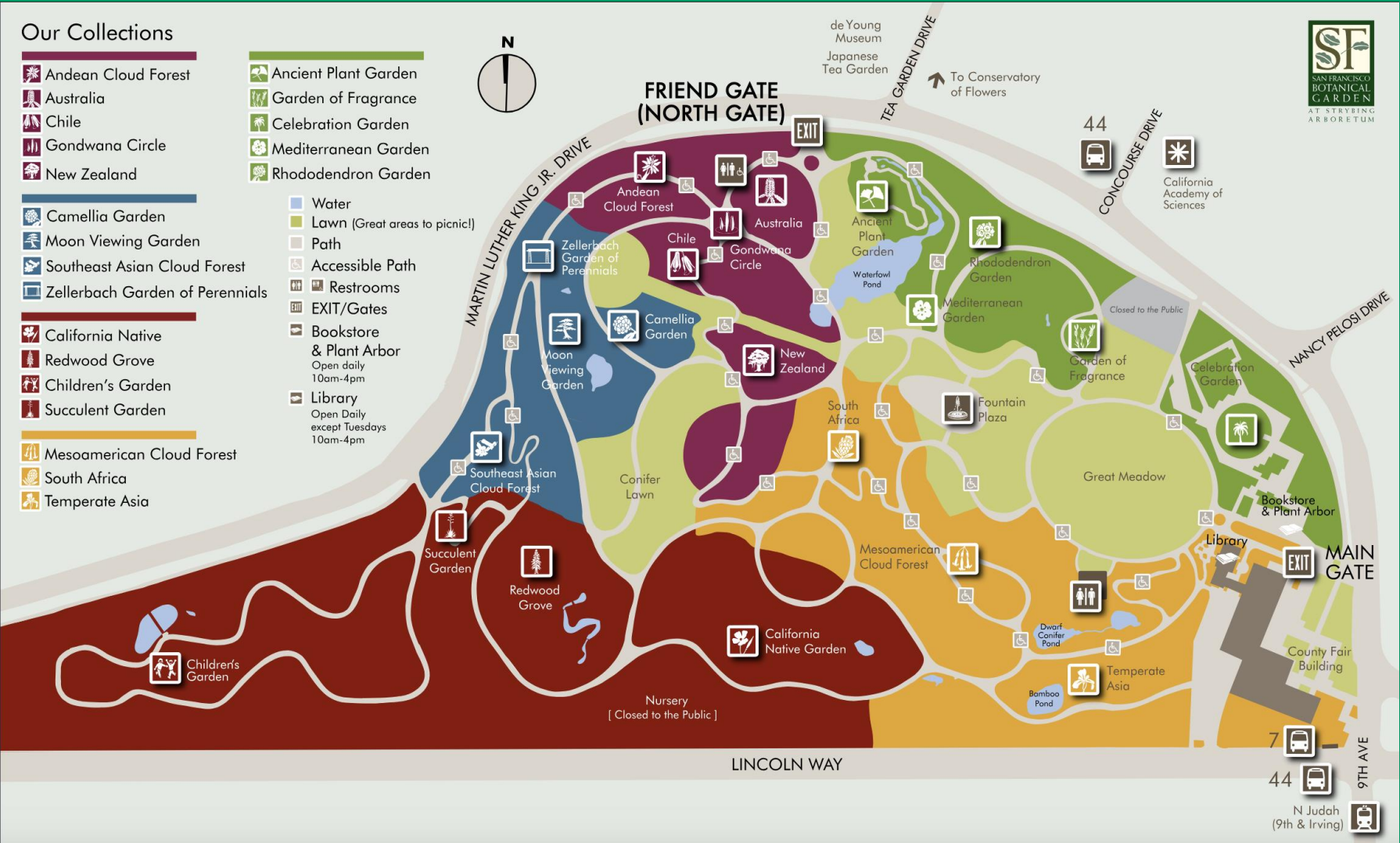
Social stories break down situations, such as visiting a new place, into clear, positive, step-by-step explanations. This makes them a powerful tool for teaching and setting expectations in a way that is supportive rather than overwhelming. They give people the confidence to navigate new or challenging 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 San Francisco Botanical Garden! This garden is home to plants from around the world and is a place for all ages to learn about plants.



There are over 55-acres of plants here. We will likely only see a portion of the Gardens, and that is ok!



Tip for Educators!

Prioritize which part of the Gardens you want your group to explore.

For example, the dark red areas contain most of our California Native Plants.

If you are studying ecosystems, you might have students compare gardens, such as the Meso-American Garden vs. the Mediterranean Garden.

Choose your own adventure!

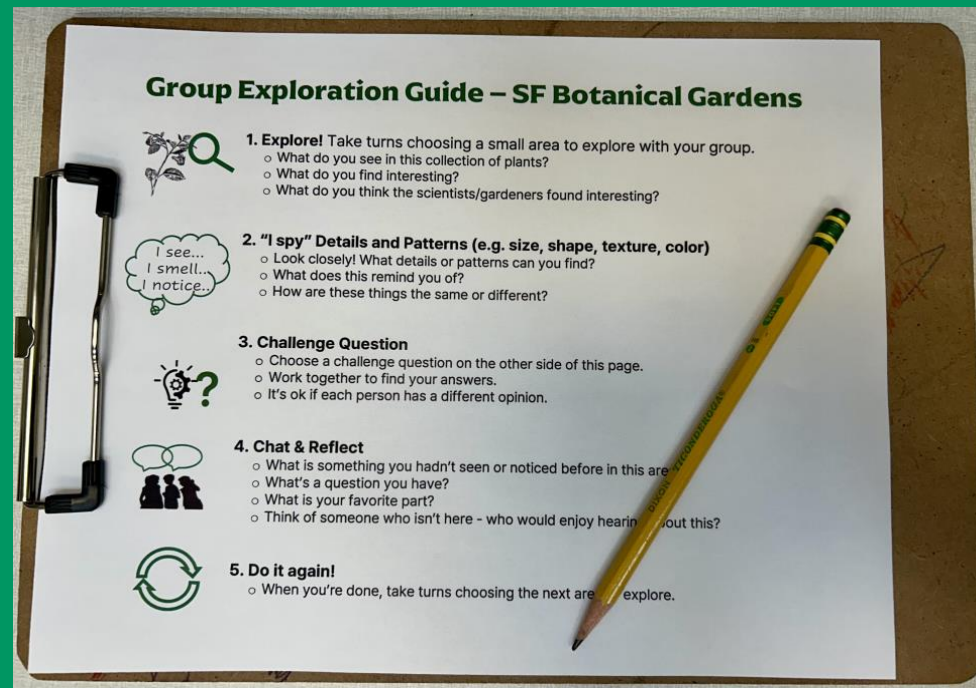
To get to the Botanical Garden we will take a bus or carpool. There may be a short walk to arrive at the Garden's gate.



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.



Our teacher will let us know if we have activities planned, such as an activity sheet. While we are walking around, we may find a Garden volunteer who can help us learn about plants.



The Botanical Garden is like a living museum. It's important to treat all living things here with respect by being gentle with plants.



Being gentle with living plants means that we can smell, look closely at plants, and gently touch the living ones.



We will always keep our feet on pathways and lawns. If we find part of a plant on the ground, we can pick it up to examine it and then put it back.



If we need help finding our way around, getting to an accessible pathway, or anything else, we can check-in with a staff person or volunteer with a green nametag!



While we explore, we will stay with our group. This is important because it's a big space and we don't want to get lost. If we get separated from each other, I will stay where I am and find a helpful adult. My teacher will call the Garden's staff on their phone.



We may visit the **Children's Garden**. This is a space where we can touch, pick and take-apart plants. There are also special activities, such as the Fort Forest and Mud Kitchen.



Please harvest mindfully! Only pick a plant that has more than 10 of what you're picking (flowers, fruits, leaves). Please pick no more than 5 types of plant parts.

Lunch or Snacks: When we are hungry, we can picnic on any of the lawns or bench areas. We will pick up all of our trash and we will not feed the wildlife.



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

