

We're visiting the Japanese Tea Garden!

A pre-visit social story for field trips



Hello Group Leaders!

Please go over these details to prepare you and your group for your field trip.

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 Park
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.



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We are going to the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco!

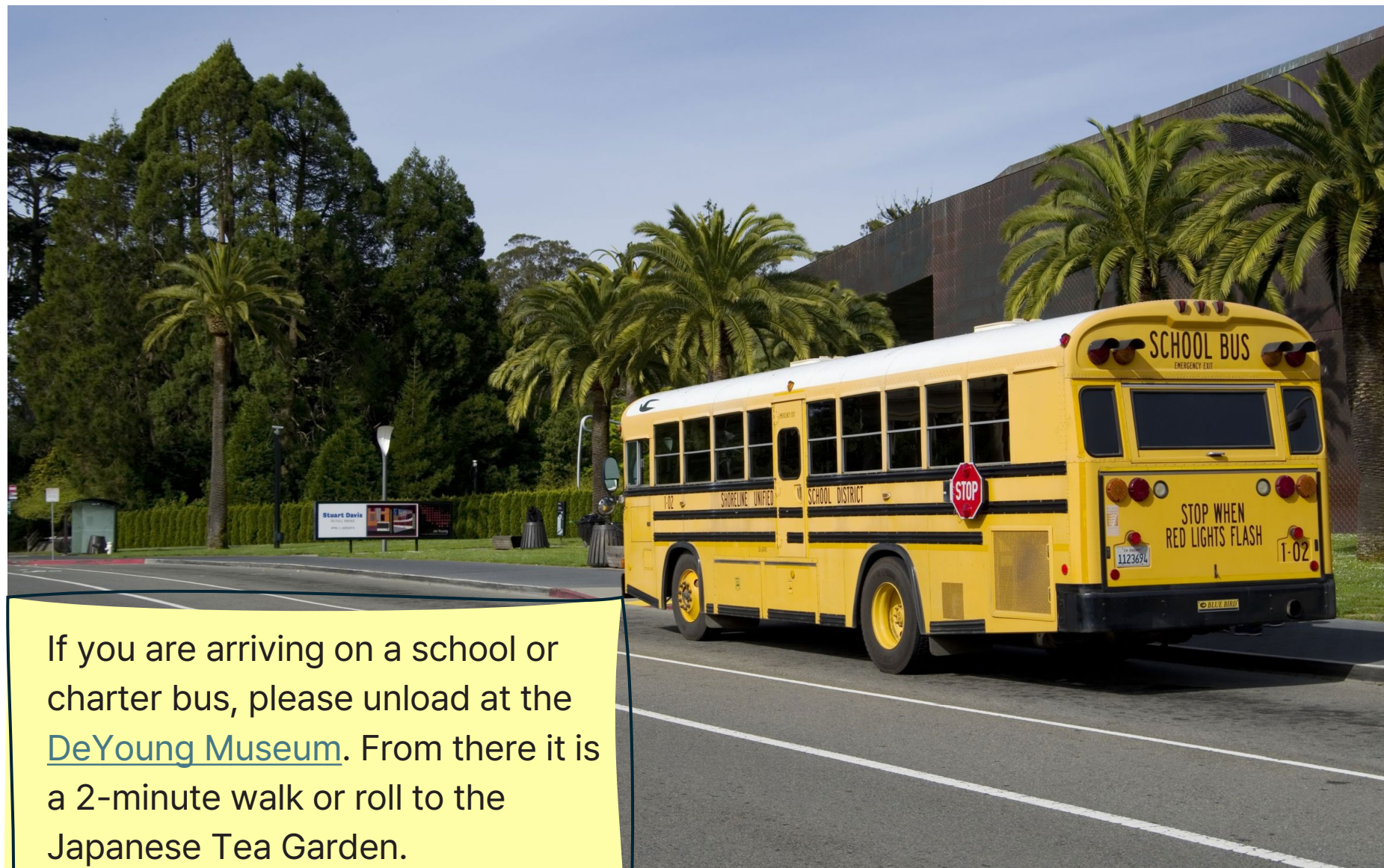
People come from all over the world to see this special place. This is the oldest public Japanese Garden in North America, open since 1894. This garden includes tranquil ponds, graceful trees, sculptures and history.



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Getting to the Japanese Tea Garden

To get there we will need to walk from wherever we parked or unloaded from a bus. The garden is all outdoors so we should plan our outfits with the weather forecast in mind.



If you are arriving on a school or charter bus, please unload at the [DeYoung Museum](#). From there it is a 2-minute walk or roll to the Japanese Tea Garden.

For more information about transportation and parking, please visit: gggp.org/getting-here



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Group Check-in

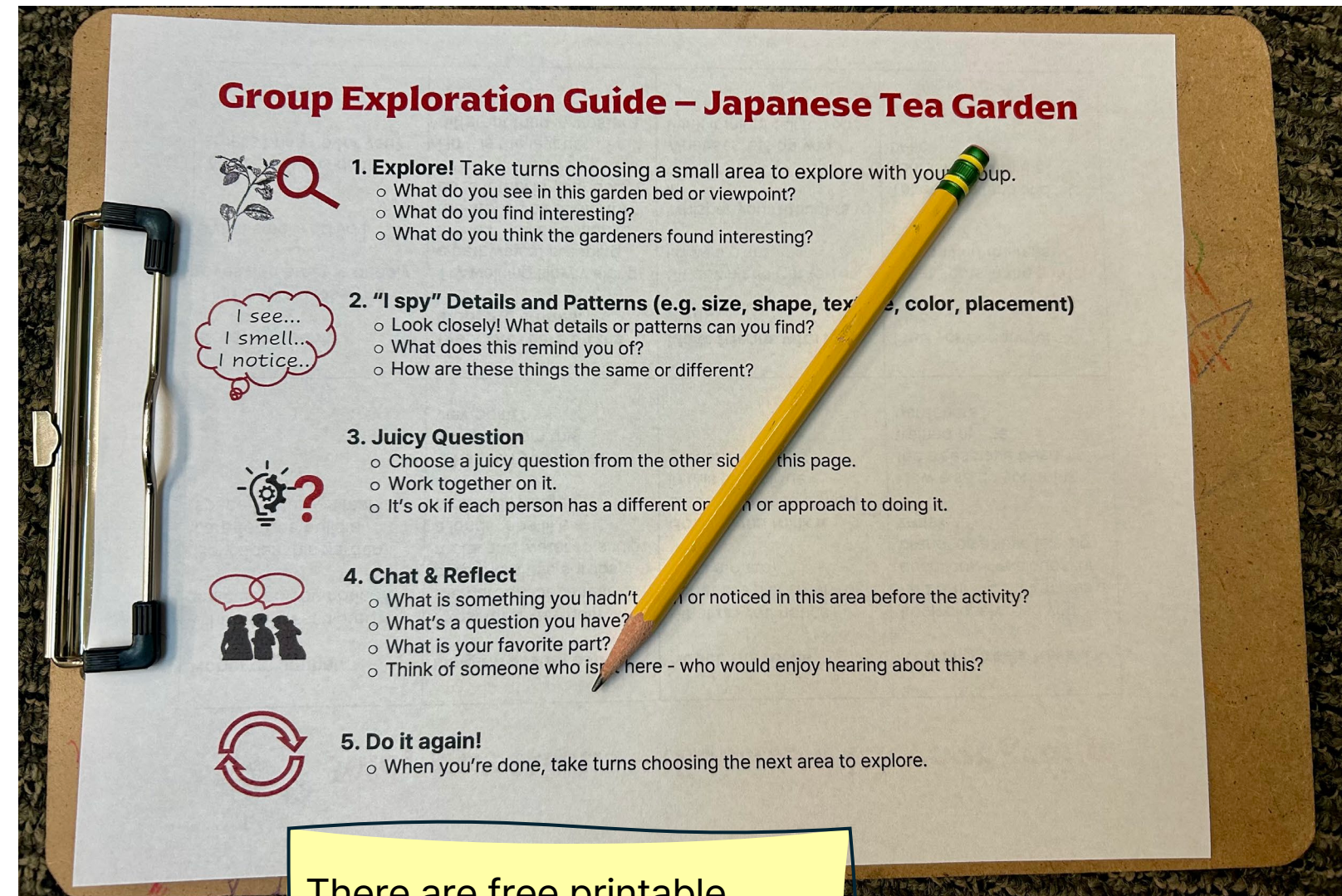
When we are ready, our group leader will go through the gate to check in at the Entry Kiosk. We can use the stairs or the ramp to the right side of the gate.

The staff members at this desk help with check-in, first-aid, and lost-and-found. They can answer questions that we have.



Exploring the Garden

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



There are free printable activities you can download from our website, or you can create your own.

gggp.org/field-trips



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Being Aware of Our Bodies

When we explore, we can smell and look closely at the living plants. To take care of the living plants, we will not touch them. We will use walking feet, not running. We will also talk quietly, with normal or whisper level 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 Can Choose Different Pathways to Explore

Some paths are more adventurous with steppingstones or stairs. Some are more solid with gentle to moderate slopes.



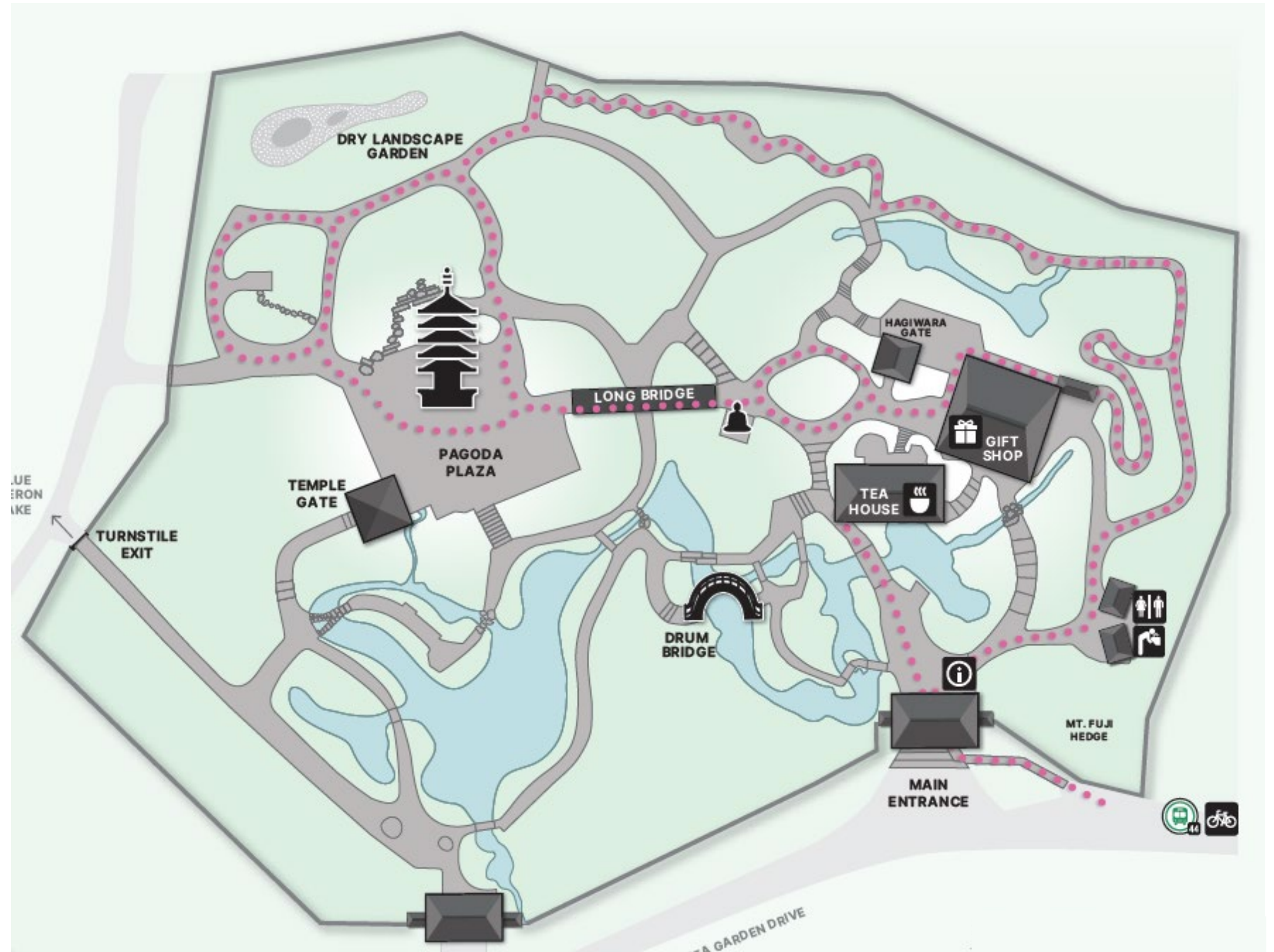
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Map of the Japanese Tea Garden

If anyone in our group can not use stairs or steppingstones, we can use the pathways with the pink dots. These are places with gentle to moderate sloped pathways.

MAP LEGEND

-  Info / Tickets
-  Bike Parking
-  Restrooms
-  Water Fountain
-  Shuttle/Muni Connection
-  Gentle to Moderate Slopes



Sculptures and History

The Japanese Tea Garden is also a space of history that we can explore. For example, in 1953 children from Japan helped buy this Peace Lantern as a symbol of friendship to children in the United States. The Buddha sculpture was cast in 1790 in Tajima, Japan.



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Using Imagination

Gardeners use their imaginations when creating this space. We can use our imaginations too! For example, the picture on the left is a "drum bridge" because with its reflection it is round like a drum. In the middle is the Mt. Fuji hedge, shaped like a famous volcano. What do the zig zag branches on the right remind you of?



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Peaceful Reflection

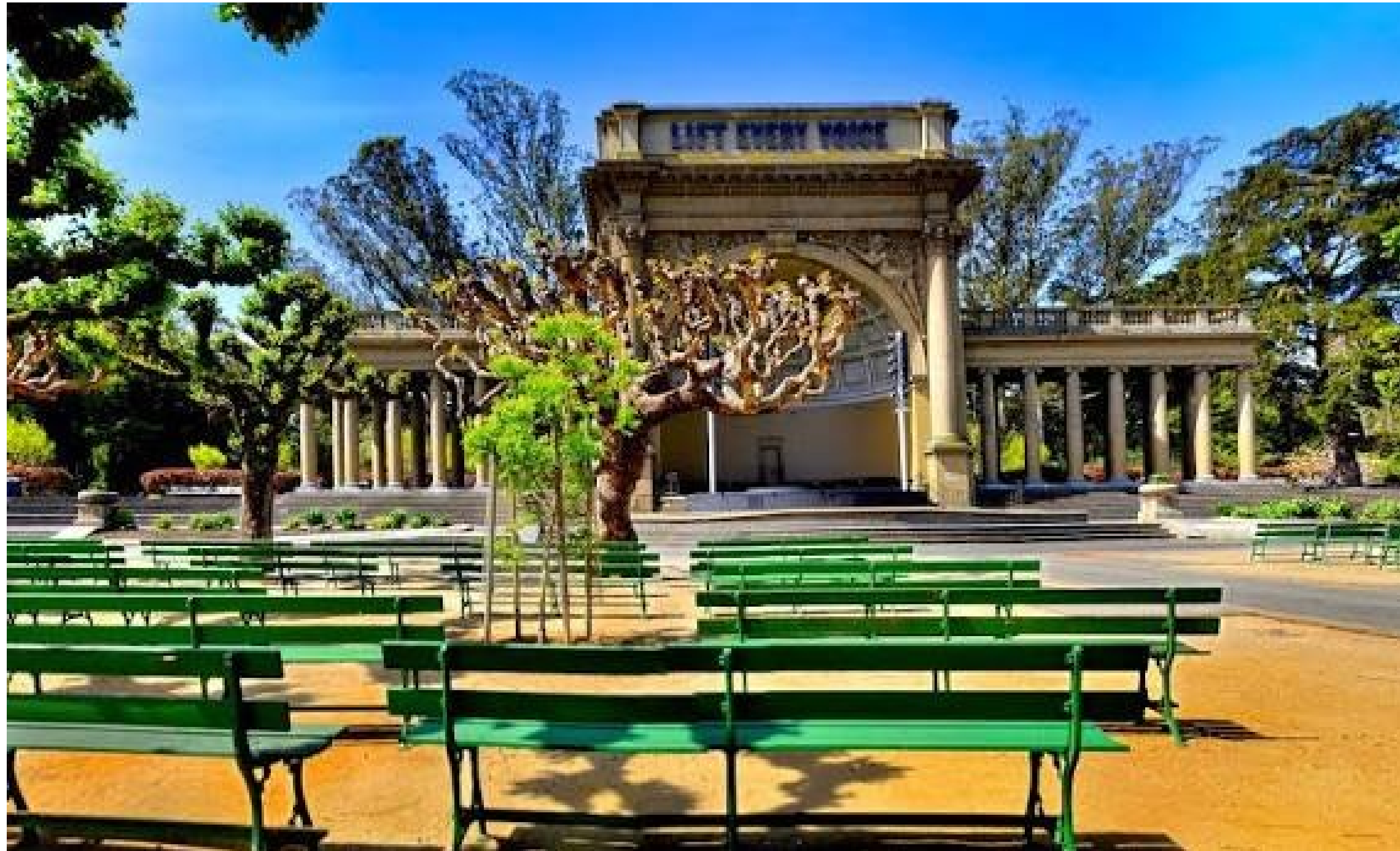
Another purpose of a Japanese Tea Garden is to enjoy peaceful reflection. We can take some time here to do the same.



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Lunch or Snacks

When we are hungry, we can picnic outside the garden at the Music Concourse or in other areas of Golden Gate Park.



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

[TEA HOUSE | JTGSE](#)

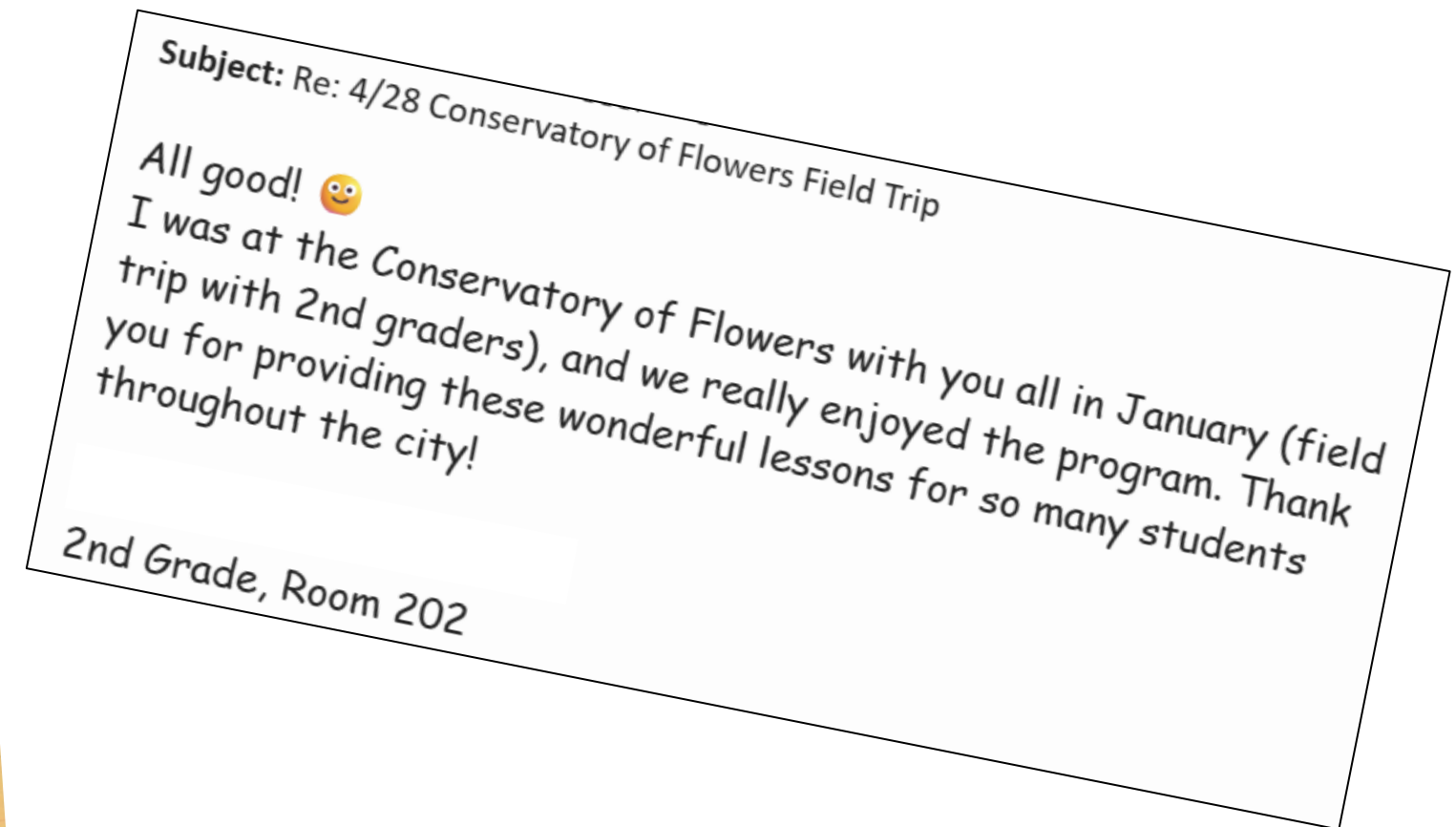
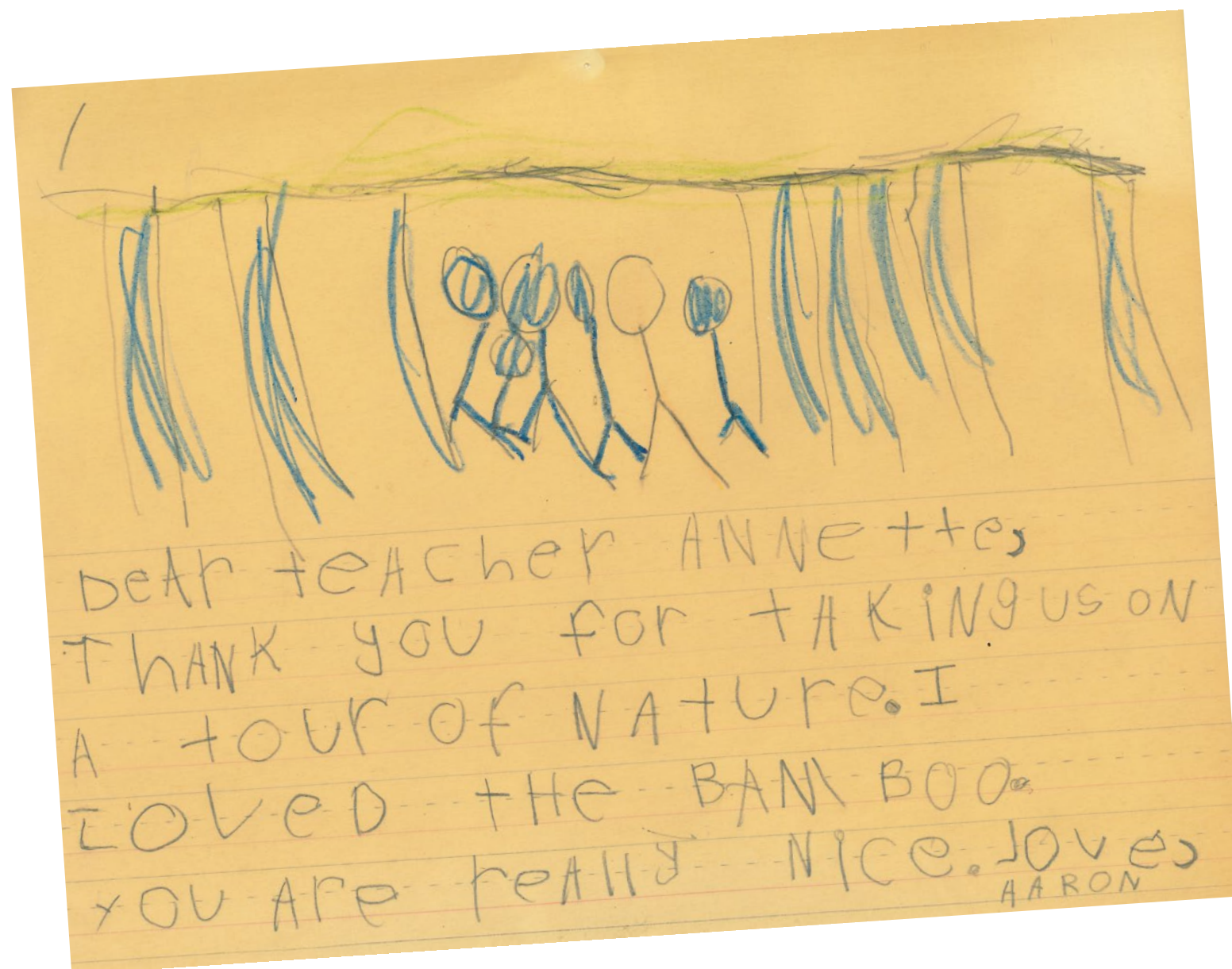


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Thank you!

Once we complete our visit, we will head out of the garden and go over the next part of our plan for the day.

We may send notes to the Garden staff to tell them what our favorites were!



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