

ACTIVITY 4: INSPIRING CREATIVITY

What have you learnt or enjoyed at the Gardens today? What inspires you? If there is one thing / story / experience that you would like to share with others about the sights and sounds you have encountered today, what would it be? If you could translate these into an art piece, what form would it take? What media and materials would you use?

Plan your art piece in the space provided and create it when you are back in school.

Art Form	
Media	
Materials	
Objective / Story / Meaning	
Sketches	

Name: _____

Inspired By Nature



Lower Secondary Activity Sheet

ACTIVITY 1: OBSERVE AND RECORD

At the *Succulent Garden* and *The Baobabs* at the Flower Dome, you will find many plants that have adapted to a dry environment with prolonged exposure to sunlight and extended periods of drought. Some of these adaptations include becoming leafless, succulence (i.e. juicy, filled with water), possessing a thick skin / outer layer, having ribs along the surface of their stem, developing shade at the top (e.g. more wool / hair / spines) and having some form of protection against predators (e.g. spines / camouflaging themselves).

Read more about the purpose of these adaptations at the panels located in these two areas.

- (a) Pick two plants that intrigue or inspire you. Observe them carefully. Can you identify the adaptations they have? Sketch these two plants in the space provided. Name them and label their adaptations.

- (b) When you are done with (a), take a walk in the Flower Dome and record the sights and sounds of your favourite scenes, plants, sculptures or other objects along the way, with your camera.

ACTIVITY 2: MAGNIFICENT SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

As you enter the Cloud Forest conservatory, enjoy the spectacular view of the waterfall that greets you at the entrance.

Cloud forests are moist tropical or subtropical montane forests with persistent low-level cloud formation. They are important sources of freshwater and home to a huge biodiversity. The plants capture rainwater and vapour that condenses from fog and clouds. Some of this makes its way down the mountain through streams, rivers and waterfalls, supplying people, plants and animals living downstream with a water source, while adding freshwater back to the ecosystem.

Walk through the Cloud Forest conservatory and record the sights and sounds of your favourite scenes, plants, sculptures or other objects along the way, with your camera.

ACTIVITY 3: ANTS ON TREES

Proceed to the Canopy (near the Flower Dome Entrance).

Find the art piece *Ants on Trees* by local artist Eng Siak Loy and observe it.

Discuss the following questions in your groups.

- (i) What is depicted here?
- (ii) What do you think the ants are doing?
- (iii) Why do you think the artist used ants?
- (iv) Do you ever notice ants? What would make you notice an ant?
- (v) What do you think ants feel / think when they see us?
- (vi) What do you think / feel when you see an ant?
- (vii) What do you think / feel when you see *Ants on Trees*?
- (viii) What do you think the artist is trying to convey or achieve with this sculpture?