

Letters to David: Flutter / Fascinating Trees Instructions and Answers

- Venue: World of Plants (Outdoors)
- Estimated duration to complete all the activities: 30 minutes or 45 minutes for younger children (excluding welcome and briefing)

Age Range / Subject

- 4 - 9 years old (Science): Conservation and Biodiversity

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about plants and animals at the Gardens
- Learn about conservation and environmental responsibility
- Develop investigative and problem-solving skills

About Letters to David: Flutter / Fascinating Trees

Letters to David is a series of online children's activities which visitors can download for free, for their visit to Gardens by the Bay.

Each activity sheet features a different set of correspondences between David, the Botanist, and his friends around the world. Within each letter, is something interesting for your children to do in a different part of Gardens by the Bay.

Letters to David: Flutter / Fascinating Trees introduces the children to nature walks and nature journaling by looking at two butterflies and two plants found at the World of Plants. *Flutter / Fascinating Trees* may be combined with the following *Letters to David* sets for a fuller or more tailored experience, depending on the age of the children and their specific needs:

- *By the Water*
- *Right at Home*
- *Small Creatures / Larger Than Life*

Welcome and Briefing (10 min)

Upon arrival, allow the children to adjust to the new surroundings. Give a quick list of instructions to the children:

- Do not run or push your friends as you walk in the gardens
- Do not touch any plants unless instructed
- Whatever you bring to the gardens, bring them back with you; whatever you find in the gardens, leave them in the gardens
- Raise your hand if you wish to speak or answer any questions
- Let your teachers know if you feel unwell

Give the children time to visit the toilet. Once ready, prepare to take the children to the **World of Plants**. The full activity will require the children to walk from **Fruits and Flowers** to **Secret Life of Trees** at the **World of Plants**. For younger children, you may wish to choose just one of the two gardens and skip the plant featured in the other, otherwise, do set aside a bit more time for walking. Before setting off, ensure that the children are properly prepared for their time outdoors.

Suggested Plan (30 min)

As you walk the children to **Fruits and Flowers** at the **World of Plants**, tell them that they will now take a walk to see if they can spot two animals that frequent the Gardens, and also two very interesting trees.

Use Annex A to show the children what the animals look like. Please note that for this activity, there is a possibility that neither of the animals will be spotted on your walk. In this situation, you can ask the children to look out for other animals.

Ask the children to name the type of animal they see in the two pictures (butterfly). Point to the picture of the Plain Tiger in Figure A1 and name the butterfly. Get them to describe the appearance of the butterfly, focusing on the colours and patterns on its wings and body. Then, use the information in David's letter to Meng to tell the children about it.

Now, do the same with the Painted Jezebel. Point to Figure A2 and name the butterfly. Ask the children to describe it. Use Meng's reply to David to tell the children about the insect. For older children, allow them to compare the two butterflies and spot the differences. Tell the children to try and spot these two butterflies as you walk them to the Cannonball Tree.

Show the children Figure B1 and ask them to look around for the tree in the picture. Once it has been correctly identified, introduce the tree as the Cannonball Tree. Ask the children to describe the appearance of the tree. Do highlight its unique flowers and fruit. Then, use the information in Noel's letter to David to tell the children about the tree.

Next, walk the children to [Secret Life of Trees](#). Along the way, remind them to look out for the butterflies. At [Secret Life of Trees](#), point out the Ghost Tree to the children. Ask them to describe the appearance of the tree. Use David's reply to Noel to tell the children about the tree.

End off the activity at one of the sheltered areas or at the Canopy area, or sheltered walkway at the Supertree Grove. Allow the children to colour the animals and plants.

Note to Educator:

The above is a suggested plan. Please feel free to adjust the duration and complexity of the activities to suit the needs of your children.

Annex A: Animals at the World of Plants



Figure A1: Plain Tiger (Anthony Wong)



Figure A2: Painted Jezebel

Annex B: Plants at the World of Plants



Figure B1: Cannonball Tree



Figure B2: Ghost Tree

