

Letters to David: Mediterranean Garden Instructions and Answers

- Venue: Mediterranean Garden – Flower Dome (indoors)
- Estimated duration to complete all the activities: 30 minutes (excluding welcome and briefing)

Age Range / Subject

- 4 – 9 years old (Science): Conservation and Plant Diversity

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what a living thing is and know the difference between living and non-living things
- Know what a plant is, including the parts of plants and their functions
- Learn about Mediterranean plants
- Develop investigative and problem-solving skills

About Letters to David: Mediterranean Garden

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: Mediterranean Garden introduces some of the plants at the **Mediterranean Garden** in the Flower Dome. Through the exchange between David, and his friend, Penny, the children will learn about common Mediterranean plants, like the Olive Tree and Date Palm.

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, take the children to the **Mediterranean Garden** in the Flower Dome.

Suggested Plan for Page 1 (15 min)

Take the children to the enclosed area of the **Mediterranean Garden**. Tell them that they are now in the **Mediterranean Garden**. Explain that the Mediterranean region is a place in the world with many plants that do not grow in Singapore (except in a garden like this!).

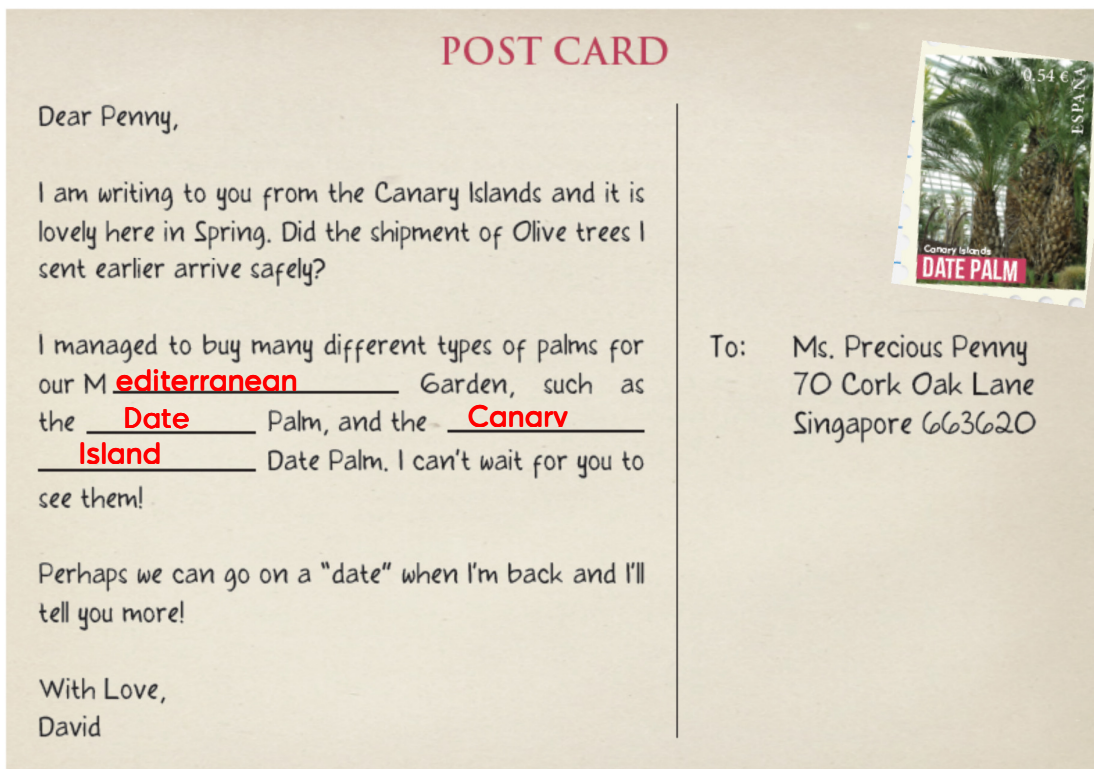
Point out the large palms planted in the centre of the area. Ask the children to describe the appearance of these palms. Apart from their size and height, two of the characteristics that the children should note are the feather-shaped leaves and rough, almost fuzzy-looking stems. Tell the children that these plants are called

"palms". (Older children familiar with the names of body parts may observe that palms share the same name as the part of our hand.)

Using the plant labels as a guide, help the children to locate the names of the palms to be filled in the blanks in the postcard. Older children may be allowed to write in the missing words.

Next, ask the children to look at the postage stamp at the top of the page. Remind them of the appearance of palms, and ask them to pick the stamp with a picture of a palm on it.

Answers:



Suggested Plan for Page 2 (10 min)

Next, walk the children to the Olive Grove and point out the Olive Trees to them. Use the content of Penny's letter to tell them about the Olive Tree. (The 1000-year-old Olive Tree is a solitary tree that faces the entrance to the South American Garden seating area. There is a bench in front of it.) If possible, you may wish to try out the recipe with your children when you are back at school.

Conclusion (5 min)

Explain to the children that the Date Palms and Olive Trees are common in Mediterranean countries, then remind them that these trees do not normally grow in Singapore, outside of gardens like ours.

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.