

Letters to David: Our Lake System Instructions and Answers

- Venue: Dragonfly Lake or Kingfisher Lake (Outdoors)
- Estimated duration to complete all the activities: 30 minutes per activity (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: Our Lake System

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: Our Lake System introduces the children to our lake system, how it works and cleans the water that runs through our Gardens and how it is a habitat for the plants and animals in the Marina Bay area. For this activity, it is recommended that you choose one of the two lakes to visit. For older children, it is possible to visit both lakes, but do allocate at least two hours, including a 30-minute break in the middle. If you intend to visit both the lake areas, you may wish to print one activity sheet for each area.

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 [Kingfisher Lake](#) or [Dragonfly Lake](#). Before setting off, ensure that the children are properly prepared for their time outdoors.

Suggested Plan (30 min)

For older children, take some time to explain how the lake system works with the help of content from David and Art's email exchange. You may wish to skip this portion and move directly to identifying the plants and animals for younger children.

Explain to the children that the lakes are home to many plants and animals. Introduce some of them using the picture references in the activity sheet. Then, take the children on a walk around either lake. Ask them to look out for the plants and animals on the sheet.

When the children spot a plant or animal, instruct them to put a tick next to the corresponding picture on the sheet. For older children, when they spot each aquatic plant, ask them to determine if the plant is floating (where the roots of the plant are just below the water surface) or if it is an emergent (where the roots of the plant grow in the ground beneath the water).

The walk can last anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes, depending on the stamina and age of the children. At the end of that time, take the children to a sheltered area nearby, and allow them to share about the plants and animals they had spotted.

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.