

Letters to David: Succulents Instructions and Answers

- Venue: Succulent Garden, The Baobabs – 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 deserts and the plants living there
- Develop investigative and problem-solving skills

About Letters to David: Succulents

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: Succulents introduces some of the succulent plants at the **Succulent Garden** and **The Baobabs** areas in the Flower Dome. Through the exchange between David, and his friend, Nick, the children will learn about the desert environment and the plants that live there.

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 **Succulent Garden** and **The Baobabs** areas in the Flower Dome.

Suggested Plan for Page 1 (10 min)

Start by asking the children to look at the picture of the African Baobab set in a desert on the first page of the activity sheet.



Ask them to describe the scene in the picture. Prompt them towards deducing that the scene is a desert environment. There may be younger children who are unfamiliar with deserts. If so, provide examples from television programmes or storybooks they are familiar with.

Explain to the children that the tree in the picture is an African Baobab, and that it lives in dry environments like deserts. Deserts can be very hot and have very little water. You may talk more about the tree using the contents of Nick's letter to David.

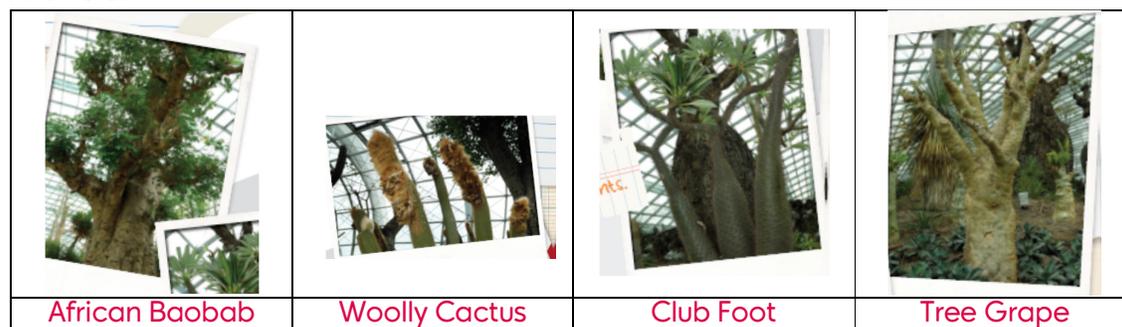
Finally, ask the children to look for the African Baobab at [The Baobabs](#) area.

Suggested Plan for Page 2 (15 min)

Start by asking the children to look at each plant photographed in activity sheet. Then, go on a plant hunt for each of them and help the children to locate the plants. Tell the children the name of each plant when they find it.

For older children, particularly those 7 to 9 years of age, you may consider helping them to name the plants by referring to the plant labels onsite.

Answers:



Conclusion (5 min)

When all the plants have been located, ask the children to name one thing all the plants have in common. Steer them towards observing that all the plants have fat trunks or stems. Remind them of what they had learnt about the African Baobab, and ask them to recall the reason for its fat trunk (water storage). Finally, prompt the children to recall the reason these plants need to store water (they live in places with little rain).

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.