

What is JBCG? Come and explore...

Jacob Ballas Children's Garden (JBCG) at the Bukit Timah end of the Gardens is dedicated to all children of Singapore. It provides a place for them to play, explore and leave with happy memories. Developed along the theme "All Life On Earth Depends on Plants," it is a unique and interactive fun place where children up to 12 years of age can discover how plants provide their daily needs. Our dearest wish is that JBCG will stimulate a sense of wonder for plants in our young visitors, cultivating an appreciation for plants, nature and the environment.

Fascinating Facts!

1 Plants can make their own food. Yes, plants are Food Making Factories! What is their secret recipe? What ingredients do plants need? Plants take in _____, a gas from the air; and release _____ (another gas) back into the air. But in order to do this, _____ and _____ are also needed. This process called _____ can only happen with a green pigment called _____ present. All four ingredients must be present ; even if one is missing, the food making process in plants cannot go on.

2 You have five very special senses. You can find three of them on your face. What are they? Here are some clues : You use your eyes for _____, your nose for _____ and your tongue for _____. The other two are : your ears for _____ and your fingers or hands for _____. With all your special senses, explore the Sensory Garden.

3 Some plants live in luxury penthouses! They do this by growing on other plants. Their aim is to get plenty of light! These plants are called _____. The subwords from which this Greek word comes from are epi- which in Greek means _____ and, phyton which in Greek means _____. Study the plants found here. Name 3 of them. _____, _____ and _____.

4 What is the name of the process through which plants recycle nutrients? _____. To do this, they need the help of decomposers and healthy roots. Name 3 types of decomposers which help plants breakdown vegetation. _____. Once nutrients are broken down, plants can re-absorb them through their roots. Plants recycle! Do you?

5 Rain Forests cover only 6% to 7% of Earth's land surface. Yet, they house what percentage of the plant and animal species on Earth? _____. What are the many everyday things that originate from Rain Forests? Name them. _____ and _____.

6 Singapore's incidence of thunderstorms and lightning is one of the highest in the world! This giant tree was struck by lightning in 2002. Its trunk has since been conserved and moved to JBCG in 2007. What is the name of this giant? _____. Around this giant 100-year-old tree trunk are parts of large roots from other trees. What is the name given to this type of support roots? _____.

7 Can plants live in or on water? Some water plants have adapted to just this! These plants have many ways to help them stay afloat. What are some of these adaptations? _____. Name 3 types of water plants which can be found at the Pond. _____, _____.

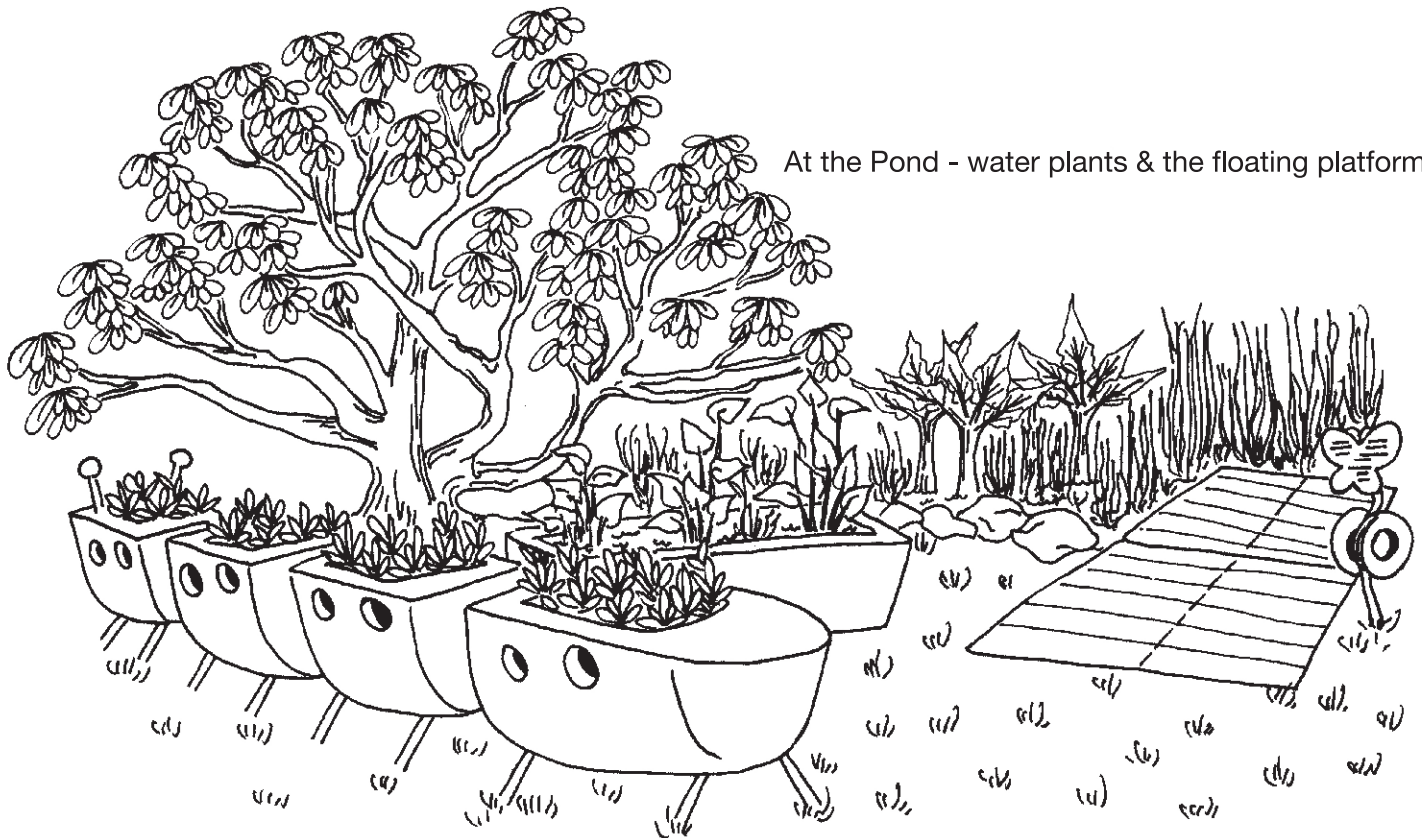
Still have time to spare?

Don't miss checking out the :

- **Maze**
- **Suspension Bridge**
- **Secret Cave**
- **Tree House**



Explore JBCG to help you colour in these pictures

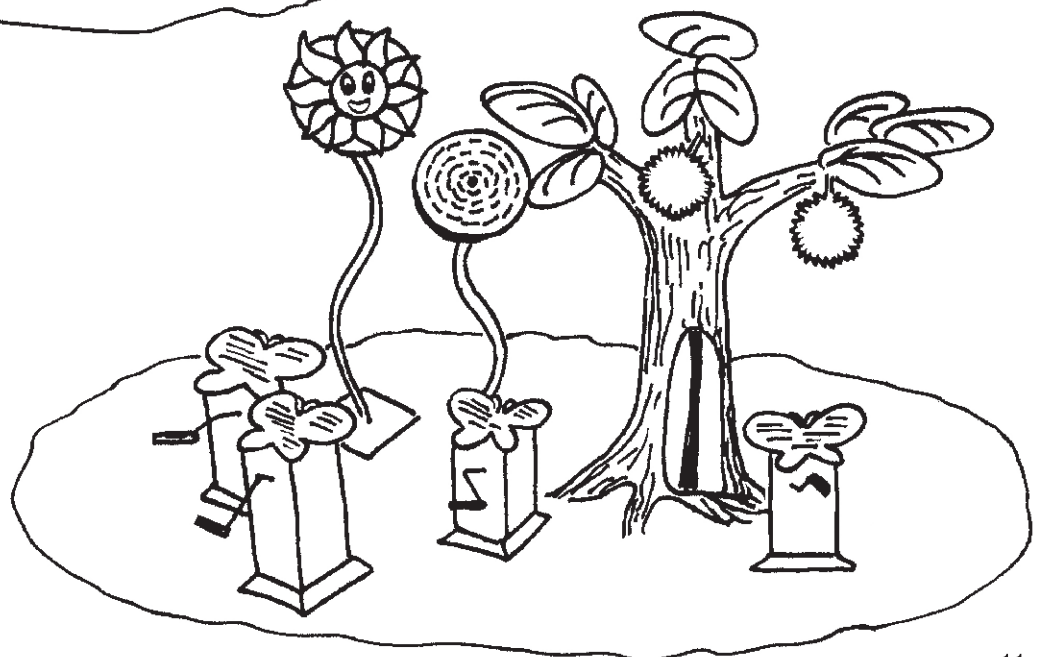


At the Pond - water plants & the floating platform



Plants recycle! Do you?

Plants are Food Making Factories!



Need a reference ?
Here are answers to the worksheet :

- 1) carbon dioxide, oxygen, sunlight, water; photosynthesis, chlorophyll
- 2) Sight, Smell, Taste, Sound/Hearing, Touch
- 3) epiphytes, upon, plant, ferns, bromeliads, orchids
- 4) nutrient cycling, bacteria, fungi, creepy crawlies
- 5) more than 50%; foods, medicines, building materials
- 6) *Pometia pinnata*, buttress
- 7) swollen spongy stems of water hyacinth, flat and large leaves of waterlily; hairy surface of water lettuce leaves. (Choose 3 from this list : cattail, water fern, water banana, duckweed, hydrilla, papyrus)