Welcome to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, the oldest botanic garden in Texas!

The Moncrief Garden Center at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden contains our visitor center, administrative offices, meeting rooms, and tropical conservatory. It is the entry to our 110 acres of specialty gardens, forests, wetlands, the Japanese Garden, and from the National Register of Historic Places, our Rose Garden. In here you can obtain a map and information about special events, the sculptures, and more. You will also find benches, restrooms, and vending machines.

Through the glass doors is the Fuller Garden, where your visit begins.

Start your squirrel count!
Make a tally mark for each squirrel you see.

See the grassy area ahead? Walk out among the trees and enjoy the sun and shade. The ground undulates (is hilly). Is the wind blowing? Look for grasses, trees, shrubs and flowers swaying in the breeze. Notice two distinct types of grasses are growing. At the far sidewalk are identification cards in the ground. Look closely to describe the difference between the color, the blade, and the root systems!

One grass is ________________
The other grass is ________________

Go back to the path and cross the stone bridge. Is the zebra grass in bloom? How did it get its name?

Find a small basin fountain. How many eight-pointed stars can you find? ____________

Sniff the plants around this small garden. Which smells best to you? ________________

Walk down the path. Feel the lamb’s ear. It looks and feels like a lamb’s ear, doesn’t it? The wool carder bee collects fluff to line her nest inside the stem of last year’s flowers. She’s a small striped bee- do you see her?

Continue on the path and stop at the Y in the path, before the arbor. You might choose to visit (gently- no climbing or pulling branches, no picking needles or pinecones) the Blue Atlas Cedar tree. Its scientific name is Cedrus atlantica ‘Glauca.’ It is an awesome blue tree! It has cool needles and the cones are weird! To find it:
1. Take the right-hand pathway (save the arbor and paths for later exploration)
2. Walk to the raised, round, limestone planted bed.
3. Step off the path! Keep your hand on the raised bed- there are lots of trees around.
4. After a dozen steps you’ll be closer to a blue tree you may have seen from the path- that’s it!
5. Step closer and have a good look… be a good steward of nature.

Now return to the path and find the gazebo. Why did we name it the Surprise Fountain? ________________
What is living in the water/on the water/near the water/waterfalls? ________________________________

There are several pathways. You can explore each! Before you start, choose a color. _________________
Look for this color along the way. A gardener likes to choose a color and repeat it in different flowers, or in various materials, high and low, in several places. Look for living and nonliving things in your color!

You’ll see a wooden bridge and you will cross over a stream. Water features crisscross the Botanic Garden, and their size depends on our recent rainfall. Insect and fish life varies where the water differs. Look for places where the water is: smooth O has riffles O shady O sunny O shallow O deep O lots of plants O

Next is a reflecting pool and in it are aquatic plants. Can you see mosquito fish or tadpoles?

Walk west of the pool, between the magnolia and the dogwood. Follow the small mulch trail to a wooden bench. What do you hear? The stream is running below you on three sides! You may not be able to see it now, due to blooming shrubs and flowers. You’ll see it again as you continue to explore the Botanic Garden!

Continue on the mulch path, and there are many trees of several different kinds: Mexican buckeye, bur oak, red oak and cedar elm. Find three cedar elms near the mulch path, each about the same size. Look at them overall, and then examine them closely. Describe in words or drawings what makes them alike.

Cedar elms are

Now you’ve come to a flagstone path. There’s a map to the rest of the garden. You can cross the street and stroll down the Texas Native Forest Boardwalk, an interpretive, elevated walk which brings you to the Rose Garden and the south garden. The south garden contains the Japanese Garden, Rock Springs Garden, other specialty gardens, and the Gardens Restaurant. Spend as much time as you like before returning to the Garden Center.

Or, you can turn left, cross the street, have a look at the stream again, visit the pocket gardens of the Nature Trail beyond Texas Garden Clubs Headquarters, and go back to the Garden Center.

Or, you can turn left and walk up the street and turn left into the parking lot and back into the Fuller Garden. Pass three interesting green boulders on the grass. These metamorphic stones are from the ravines of the mountainous island of Shikoku, Japan. The stones contain the mineral chloride, which is green. Plants have chlorophyll, also green. Both words share the root word, chloros- the Greek word for green.