Have you ever noticed that every living thing on Earth has a very distinct role? Some living things have developed relationships that benefit themselves and others. Your mission is to observe and discover how plants and animals interact throughout the Garden.

**READY EXPLORERS, LET’S GO!**

1. Use your map reading skills to find **The Nature Connect’s Spider #23 on map**. Can’t find it, just look up.

You may not believe it, but spiders play an important role in our Garden. They pollinate plants, protect them from harmful insects and help recycle dead plants and make rich soil. The plant provides food and shelter to the spider. They both benefit! We call that mutualism.

What plants do you benefit from?

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2. Use your map reading skills to find **Nature Connect’s Monarch on a Milkweed sculpture #10**. Butterflies undergo metamorphosis, a dramatic change from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Butterflies rely on plants for food, shelter and to raise their young, we call those host plants. For monarch butterflies, like this, their host plant is milkweed.

Plants cannot move so they need help from pollinators to reproduce. A pollinator is anything that moves pollen from one plant to another. In exchange for carrying the pollen, plants provide food for the pollinator. We call this a symbiotic relationship.

• Draw an insect that pollinates plants?

3. Now off to see the **Hummingbird Sculpture (#24)**

• What is the hummingbird doing?

Butterflies start as caterpillars. Draw a picture of a picture of a caterpillar eating.

• Draw a picture of a picture of a caterpillar eating.
• What do you think would happen to the plants if their pollinators disappeared?

4. Continue your journey to #13 on the map. Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes! Each pollinator has a favorite flower shape they like best. This is known as pollinator syndrome. Bee-lieve it or not, most bees prefer wide flowers that allow them to rest while they feed on nectar. Pretend you’re a bee on a mission, find your favorite flower nearby and take a picture next to it.

5. After your long journey, it’s time to take a quick break. Take a photo with the Ant Hill sculpture (#17). Did you know ants dig tunnels underneath the soil to build their home? Not only does living underground help ants avoid predators, their nests also help the soil! These underground tunnels aerate the soil and mix nutrients into it, which can be absorbed by a plant’s root system!

Now that you are in the Children’s Garden, pretend you are an ant and climb on the branches to find your food.

6. Don’t forget: All great explorers record their adventures!

What is one thing you learned today?

What do you want to explore on your next visit?

For the safety of the sculptures, please do not cross this barrier or touch the pieces.

Please note that we are providing very limited priority shuttle service for those individuals requiring additional assistance.

WiFi: FTBG Guest Password: fairchild

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