YOUR MISSION FIND THE FLUTTER



Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept it: FIND THE FLUTTER

Today you are working as an entomologist, a scientist who studies insects. But, to complete your mission, you need to focus on one specific group of spectacular insects that can be found all around the Garden. You will be working as a lepidopterist, collecting data and making hypotheses about butterflies.

Previous observations have told us that these butterflies come in a huge range of sizes, shapes, and colors, but they all seem to have colorful wings, antennae, and can be found primarily in two locations of the Garden.

READY EXPLORERS, LET'S GO!

1. Find the Lisa D. Anness South Florida Native Butterfly Garden on your map and go to that location.

• Native means that a species is from that area. Slowly walk through the

- Do you see any flowering plants in this area? Are there any fruits on those plants? Flowers become fruits if their pollen gets moved from the flower on one plant to another. What job do you think butterflies do for plants?
- Plants and animals often form symbiotic relationships, which is where they both benefit from each other. What do you think butterflies get in return for helping the plants?
- Observe butterflies moving from plant to plant. What do they seem to be doing?

2. Find more butterflies by moving to the Wings of the Tropics exhibit inside the Clinton Family Conservatory. What number is it on the map?

exhibit. Do you see any butterflies? Sketch one below:



• These butterflies were not put here as part of the exhibit, they are wild and this is their home. Why do you think there are so many butterflies in this part of the Garden? • Talk with our volunteers at the entrance and learn why we have three sets of doors before entering and exiting the conservatory. What did you learn?

• What does exotic mean?

• Imagine you are a lepidopterist in a different country, and you want to send a new butterfly to the Garden. How would you send a butterfly? Sketch your idea below.



- Stop at the Metamorphosis Lab Windows. You will see chrysalis in different sizes, shapes and colors. A chrysalis is the life stage where a butterfly is transforming from a caterpillar to a butterfly. These are not cocoons. A cocoon is a special protective layer some moth caterpillar create over their chrysalis. Do you see any butterflies emerging? Take a photo of your favorite chrysalis.
- While they might not sound delicious to us, butterflies have many natural predators, or things that want to eat them. During each stage of its lifecycle, a butterfly needs different ways to protect itself from predators. Observe the chrysalis in the windows. Pick one. Does it remind you of anything? How might it be protecting itself? Sketch below.

- Now take a walk through the exhibit. Find a flower in the garden, sit quitly, and watch to see which butterflies visit that flower. Like all living things, butterflies need food. Butterflies don't have a mouth, they have a straw-like tongue called a proboscis (pronounced pro-bos-cis). Some use the proboscis for drinking nectar from flowers. Can you spot any buteerflies feeding? Are they chewing like us?
- Some butterflies prefer the juice of rotting fruit. Find a plate of fruit located to the right of the path. What types of fruit do you see?
- The number of species of butterflies in the conservatory changes all the time. How many different kinds of butterflies do you see?

3. All Great explorers record their adventures

• What was the most interesting thing you saw today?

• What is one thing you learned today?



Buildings, Exhibits, Collections and Points of Interest

- Shehan Visitor Center and The Shop at Fairchild
 Geiger Tropical Flower Garden
 Adam R. Rose & Peter R. McQuillan Arts Center
 Danielson Vine Pergola
 Sibley Victoria Amazonica Pool
 Tropical Flowering Tree Arboretum
 Lougheed Spiny Forest of Madagascar
 Historic Gatehouse
 Alleé & Overlook
- 10 Corbin Education Building
- 1 South Florida Butterfly Garden

- 12 Learning Garden
- 13 Montgomery Garden House
- 14 Garden House Lawn
- 15 Mulch Path
- 16 Bailey Palm Glade
- 17 Cycad Circle
- 18 Moos Sunken Garden
- 19 Montgomery Palmetum
- 20 The Children's Garden
- 21 Whitman Tropical Fruit Pavillion
- **22** Rare Plant House

23 Tropical Plant Conservatory
24 The Clinton Family Conservatory featuring the Wings of the Tropics Butterfly Exhibit
25 Glasshouse Café
26 DiMare Science Village
27 Hsiao Labs
28 Burns Science Building
29 Richard H. Simons Rainforest
30 Garden Club of America Amphitheater & Lougheed Palm Grove