GARDEN EARTH EXPLORERS PASSPORT

ALICE H. RICHARDS CHILDREN’S GARDEN

BELONGS TO: ___________________________
The State Botanical Garden of Georgia (SBG) was established by the University of Georgia in 1968. The garden is 313 acres with 5 miles of walking trails, meant for the study and enjoyment of nature. The children’s garden was named for Alice H. Richards, a charter member of the board of advisors at the garden. The Richards family made a generous gift to begin the construction of the children’s garden. Since their initial gift, many others have contributed to growing the newest garden at SBG.

The mission of the Alice H. Richards Children’s Garden is to inspire wonder, love, and stewardship of nature through creative learning, adventure, and play for children of all ages. We envision a natural world of discovery and joy.

SAVE THE DATES

Alice H. Richards Children’s Garden Grand Opening  March 23
Garden Earth Explorers  Thursdays & Saturdays at 10:15 a.m.
Insect-ival  September 28
Heritage Days Fall Festival  November 16

Children’s Garden Performance Series
(every 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Performer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Magician Kevin O’Neal</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Canopy Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Rebecca Sunshine Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Maggie Hunter &amp; Tommy Jordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 17</td>
<td>Ukulady</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Dancefx</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Classic City Ballet</td>
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GROWING THE CHILDREN’S GARDEN
This passport is your guide to adventuring through the Alice H. Richards Children’s Garden and becoming an official Garden Earth Explorer! All ages are encouraged to explore. Look for your Garden Earth friends throughout the passport for facts, tips, and extra challenges. Words in bold found within the passport are challenging science words you are encouraged to learn about at home. Once you’ve completed your passport, report to the gift shop located in the Visitor’s Center to receive your official Garden Earth Explorer prize and passport stamp!

**If you are under 5:**

You only need to complete at least 5 activities with this sunflower symbol on it to get stamped and receive your prize.

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**Please keep in mind...**

Exploration encouraged. Supervision required.
Welcome to the Georgia Plaza! Here we can learn about and explore all of Georgia's ecozones. We will be taking a journey from the highest peaks in the mountains, through the piedmont, and all the way to the coast. Take a look at the Discovery Wall and map of Georgia. Choose your favorite icon and sketch it below.

All ecozones have a matching color sign. Circle the ecozone your icon comes from!
I’m Darien the Dolphin. To picture a watershed, cup your hands and imagine they are a landscape, then picture how water would flow from high (fingers) to low (palms).

Georgia rivers drain east to the Atlantic Ocean and south to the Gulf of Mexico. Flowing to the south of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia (SBG) is the ________________ River. This river becomes one with the ________________ River before it flows out of Athens. From here, it is called the ________________ River, until it joins with the ________________ River to become the ________________ River. This mighty river empties in to the ________________ Ocean.

The Altamaha River Basin is one of the largest watersheds in Georgia.

Answer Key: Middle Oconee, North Oconee, Oconee, Ocmulgee, Altamaha, Atlantic

Follow the path from SBG to ________________ Ocean.
Using the ceramic mosaics along the benches, find these flowers and their matching pollinators!

Cardinal + + Swallowtail
 + Vine + Gulf
Butterfly + Monarch
 + Yucca
Coral + Ruby- +
 + Phlox + Zebra
Scarlet Bean + - Skipper
Sundrops + White- Sphinx

I’m Suga Magnolia and I depend on pollinators, like beetles, to help spread my pollen. Some pollinators are attracted to specific flowers, while others are not picky and visit many different kinds of flowers. People depend on pollinators to help plants produce all of the delicious fruits and veggies in the garden.
I’m Bertha Bee.
Did you know that bees can alter the direction of their dance to accommodate the changing direction of the sun? Start at the hive and connect the dots as you follow the arrows that direct you to nectar and water sources. Stop at the hive to communicate with the other bees, then forage again.

Did you know honey bees communicate with one another by dancing? When a bee finds nectar, pollen, or a water source it will report the good news back to the hive. The bee will waggle, like a dance, and move its body in the direction of the discovered resources, so other bees in the hive can also find them! Help the honey bee find its way through the flower patch.
I’m Larry the Largemouth Bass. In Georgia, we can find a variety of aquatic habitats from the Appalachian Mountains all the way down to the sandy coast. The mountains are full of cold freshwater tributaries that flow into a larger body of freshwater known as a river. Rivers will flow downhill and eventually meet the salty ocean. The area where a river meets the ocean is known as an estuary; these habitats have a mixture of salt and freshwater and are affected by the ocean tides. A lake is a natural body of freshwater surrounded by land. In Georgia, we have no natural lakes, but we do have reservoirs. A reservoir is a man-made lake used for recreation, power, and drinking water. Water can also fill low-lying forest areas, creating a wetland. One example of a wetland is a swamp. Find the underlined words in the word search below.
I’m Little Richard Pitcher Plant and I’m a carnivorous plant. This means I get my nutrients from eating insects! You may notice I look a little different than other plants. My bright colors and smelly nectar attract insects, who slip down my tube-like leaf structure into a digestive enzyme that makes the insect easy for me to absorb. Observe and draw a pitcher plant below, then draw what it might eat around it.

Something smells good!
In 1983 near Waynesboro, Georgia, construction workers accidently unearthed a forty-million-year old fossil. Named *Georgiacetus vogtiensis*, the fossil is an early relative to today’s whales. Find the Georgiacetus skeleton on the fossil wall. Study the sketch below, and fill in the missing bones (hint: there are 10)!

I’m Beatrice Bat and I use **echolocation** to avoid running into stalactites that form from the **ceiling** and stalagmites that form on the **ground**. Can you point to each of these?
I’m Charlie Chickadee. You may see birds like me flying in the sky, but have you ever seen a bat? Bats are mammals that usually fly in the evening and roost in trees and caves during the day. Sort the words below as traits of a bird or a bat by writing them under the correct animal. If the trait describes both a bird and a bat, circle it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIRDS</th>
<th>BATS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>feathers</td>
<td>visible ears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sleep upside down</td>
<td>warm-blooded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>live birth</td>
<td>beak</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Answer Key: BIRDS: feathers, beak, lay eggs, hidden ears. BATS: sleep upside down, live birth, visible ears, echolocation. Fur, teeth, both: warm-blooded.
I’m Olli Earthworm and I help create rich soil for plants in the garden to grow big and strong! Explore the Dig and Grow Plaza, and cross off the pictures below that match what you see in the garden. Try to get five in a row for bingo!

**BINGO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rock</th>
<th>something brown</th>
<th>smooth edge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>something smooth</td>
<td>rock</td>
<td>gardener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serrated edge</td>
<td>something rough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>something green</td>
<td></td>
<td>something smelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seedling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many different colored foods can you see?

What food groups are represented? (vegetables, fruits, protein, whole grains, dairy)

What foods do you think have been pollinated?

What is your favorite part of your lunch?

You are standing underneath the vegetable terrace! Look into the root zone, and draw what you see.
Standing up to 100 feet tall, the American Chestnut once provided food and shelter to a variety of animals from the forest floor to the canopy. Since the Chestnut Blight in 1904, these animals adapted to find resources from other tree species. Study the American Chestnut on this page. Within the circles at each forest layer, write or draw an animal that could be found there.
I’m Wilbur White Oak, and I am a leaf. Leaves use **chlorophyll** to trap energy from the sun and create food in a process called **photosynthesis**. Leaves can come in all different shapes and sizes. The shape of a leaf can help you identify what tree species you are looking at! Examine the variety of leaf shapes below. Trace the American Chestnut leaf to complete the drawing.
I’m Madame Squirrel!
Did you know, some nuts are never found by the squirrels and can grow into trees?

Squirrels bury or **cache** nuts in the ground in order to save them for a later time when food could be hard to find. Challenge yourself by first finding **5** acorns. Then, bury the acorns in a variety of places throughout the Forest Play area!
BARK EXPLORATION

Observe the trees, looking closely at the bark. Do you notice any differences? Some trees have smooth bark, whereas other trees have rougher bark with deep ridges. Explore the forest around you, and try to find two trees with differently textured bark. Hold your pencil or crayon on its side while holding this piece of paper against your tree to create a bark rubbing!

smooth bark

rough bark
Choose one plant or animal nearby to observe closely for two minutes. Write your observations below!

I’m Oliver the Owl. I can see everything around me by turning my head almost all the way around. Don’t forget to look all around you when you make your observations!

Date: Location:

Weather:

Description and Observations:
I’m Chippy Chipmunk and I cache nuts too. Can you find the acorns you hid with Madame Squirrel?
1. The oldest fossils in Georgia, ________ million years old, are found in the northwest corner of the state.

2. The glowing worm was discovered in ________ in Hawkinsville, Georgia.

3. The famous sweet Vidalia onions, Georgia’s official state vegetable, are only grown in _____ counties surrounding Vidalia.

4. Adult squirrels often live among as many as ________ dreys, at one time.

5. Gold mining took place in Georgia from the 1820s to the 1930s, with a major gold rush in the late 1820s in ________.

6. Elberton, Georgia granite is quarried from a deposit called a ______________ that is about 35 miles long, six miles wide, and up to three miles deep!
7. Gulf Fritillary butterflies are bright __________ with dark markings.

8. Fungi are important ___________ in the forest ecosystem.

9. The name Okefenokee comes from a Native American word meaning “land of _______________ earth”.

10. There are more than _______ kinds of insects that live inside a pitcher plant without being eaten.

11. Dawson County is home to one of the highest waterfalls east of the Mississippi, Amicalola Falls, at _______ feet.

12. Georgia has the ___________ blueberry harvest season in the USA.

13. A ___________ is a dead or dying tree that is still standing.

14. Georgia is the number _____ producer of peanuts in the country.

15. Georgia rivers drain east to the _____________ Ocean or west and south to the Gulf of ____________.
I am Foreco, which stands for the *forest ecosystem*. I watch over all of my friends you’ve met here in the garden. Draw or write your favorite Garden Earth Passport adventure!
THANK YOU to our GRAND OPENING SPONSORS!

Friends of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia

FIVE POINTS EYE CARE

RUBY SUE GRAPHICS

ATHENS, GA

Lemon Aid

LAMAR