## Discover Weezie's Garden for Children

Welcome to Weezie's Garden for Children! Inspired by one of the oldest groups of plants on earth—

the fern—each frond has its own theme for you to explore. As you venture around the garden, try to guess what parts of the outside world the designer was asking you to think about. Stemming from importance of the ancient ferns, the garden features many prehistoric elements. Feel free to dig for fossils, play around on some petrified wood, and even touch one of the oldest living tree species: the gingko. Look and see if you can identify which tree might have been around with the dinosaurs and sketch the leaf below!

We love our pollinators here at Massachusetts Horticultural Society! The term **pollinator** refers to an animal that moves pollen from one flower to another, allowing them to reproduce and thrive. We need pollinators like native bees, butterflies, moths, birds, and even bats, to grow food. In the garden, we have blueberries that really appreciate the **miner bee** nests below them. Many pollinators also depend on specific plants to survive; the only plant in which **monarch butterflies** can lay their eggs is the milkweed. Over years of coexisting, some pollinators and plants almost seem like they were made for each other. **Hummingbirds** have specialized beaks that allow them to access nectar in the tubular flowers of bee balm. See if you can spot any key pollinator species or the plants they visit and match them up!

## MATCH THE POLLINATOR TO ITS FAVORITE PLANT

MONARCH BUTTERFLY BLUEBERRIES

MINER BEE BALM

HUMMINGBIRD MILKWEED

Pollination is only one of the ways that plants and animals interact. Besides using trees as a place for their nest, birds like the **piliated woodpecker** drill holes in the trunks of trees with their beak to access insects below the bark. Sometimes deer and other **herbivores** will even come into our garden and eat the leaves! **Can you find all these signs of wildlife in our garden?** 

- O BIRD'S NEST
- O PILIATED WOODPECKER HOLES
- O FROG EGGS AND TADPOLES
- O HERBIVORES
- O RODENT HOLES

## **SOUNDS OF A GARDEN**

You can tell animals are around using another sense besides sight, too. The garden is full of sounds! Just like how people talk to each other, birds use different calls and songs to let other birds in their species know what's going on. Scientists will often listen to these sounds to identify bird species that they can't see. **Listen closely and see if you can figure out who's talking.** Some birds you might hear today:

caw-caw-caw-koodle-yah American Crow

*chk-a-dee-dee-dee* Black-capped Chickadee

hoo-ah hoo-hoo-hoo Mourning Dove

cheer-cheer-cheer-purty-purty-purty

Northern Cardinal

*gobble-gobble-gobble*Wild Turkey

You can also make your own sounds today; go past the water garden to find our music tree.

Have

Have fun exploring Weezie's Garden for Children!