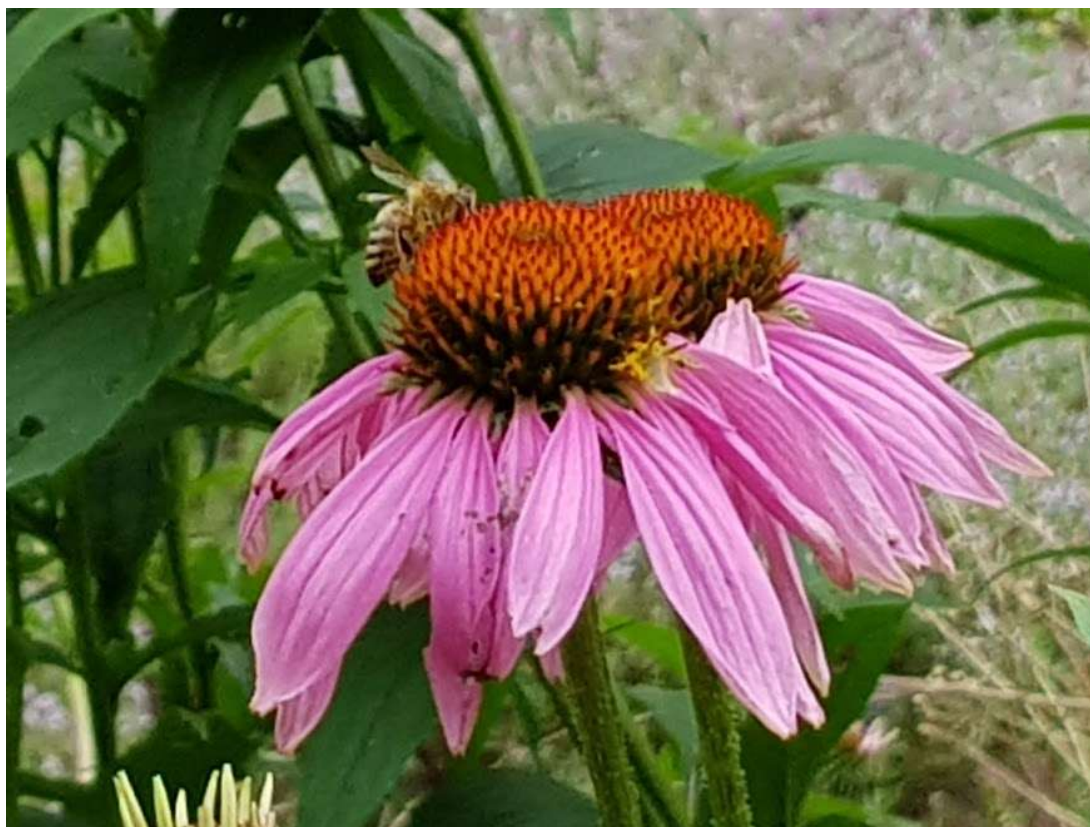


# Our Visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens

## Minibeasts



We are going to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

We can also call it the Botanic Gardens.

The Botanic Gardens is a beautiful, large garden near the city of Melbourne. It has many plants from all around the world.



We will look for the meeting place when we arrive at the Botanic Gardens.

A Learning Facilitator will greet us.



There is a quiet shady place to have a snack and a drink.

The accessible toilets are nearby too.



My teacher and the Learning Facilitator will help me to stay safe at the Gardens.



We are going to discover  
minibeasts in the Botanic Gardens.

We will use our eyes for looking,  
our hands for touching, our ears for  
listening and our bodies  
for exploring in the Gardens.



The Learning Facilitator will take us to the Children's Garden.

The Children's Garden is enclosed with a fence.



Minibeasts are tiny animals (invertebrates) such as insects, spiders and worms.

Some minibeasts are well camouflaged. We need to look carefully on flowers, under leaves, on the bark of trees.



Plants provide food and shelter for minibeasts.

We can see bees collecting nectar and spreading pollen from flower to flower, which makes new seeds.



We will look for worms in the worm farms.

Worms recycle our food scraps and make worm castings (worm poo).

The castings provide food or nutrients for plants to grow.



There is a pond in the Children's Garden.

We can sit on the edge of the pond, or lie on our tummies and look for minibeasts which live in water.

We may see tadpoles or dragonfly nymphs or water beetles.

We will use our bodies to balance carefully on the edge of the pond.



We will visit the Kitchen Garden where many minibeasts live.

We can look for minibeasts under leaves, in the soil or in the compost.

We can rub the leaves of the plants to smell the scents.

Some leaves are soft, some leaves are rough.

Some leaves are spiky so we will touch them gently.



Insects are minibeasts with six legs, a head, thorax and abdomen.

Insects are different colours, shapes and sizes.

We can look for a ladybird on a leaf.

We can look for a dragonfly on a flower.



We will find an Insect Hotel in the Kitchen Garden.

The holes and crevices provide a home for insects.

There are places for spiders to lay their eggs and weave their webs.



We can crawl through the ancient river red gum. We might see spiders' webs, slaters, or ants.



We can hug the bottle trees. Maybe we will find eggs under the leaves?



We will explore the beautiful Botanic Gardens.

We must remember to;

- walk, not run
- stay on the paths or grass
- look for minibeasts, but not touch. Some insects and spiders bite or sting to protect themselves from predators.



We can find quiet places to rest.

The Botanic Gardens are home for many birds.

Minibeasts, such as insects and worms, provide food for the birds.

We will walk quietly so we don't frighten the birds.





We can walk to the Herb Garden or Sensory Garden.

Insects are attracted to the colours, shapes and scents of the plants in these gardens.



In the herb garden we can look for signs with symbols.

An insect symbol tells us the herb is an insect repellent plant.

We can rub the leaves and flowers of the plants to release the scent.



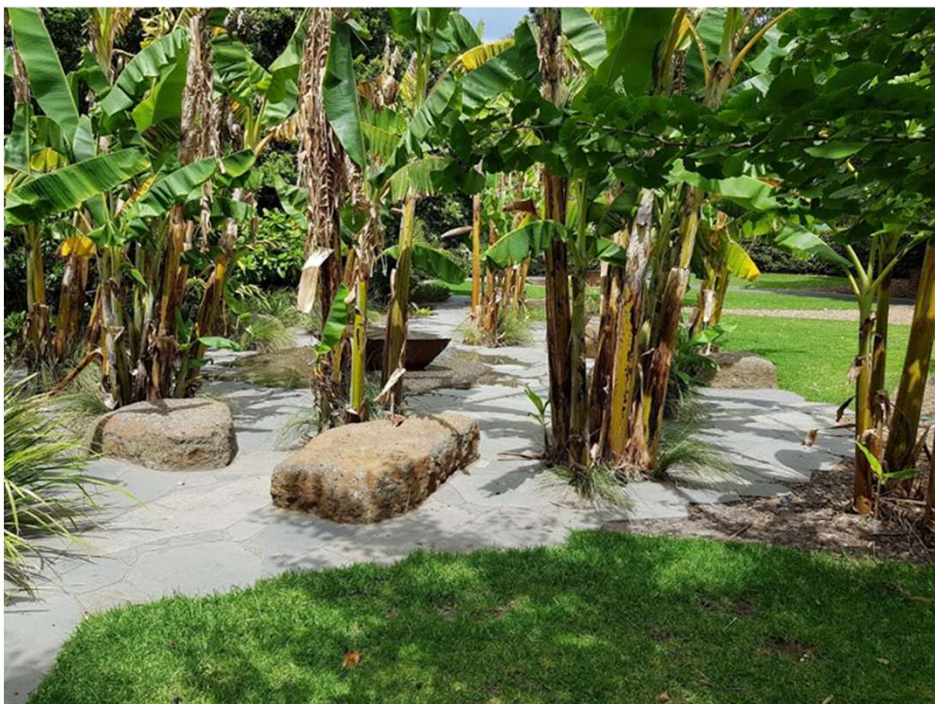
We will plant a seedling to take back to our School or Early Learning Centre.

A seedling is a baby plant.

The plant provides food or shelter for minibeasts.



We will walk back to our quiet space for lunch.



There are signs in the Garden to show us our way.



It's fun to discover minibeasts at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

## **Additional Notes:**

- The Children's Garden is closed in term 3 so most of the program will be held in the larger Garden.
- The Social Script is a general guide to some of the sensory experiences and language children will encounter at the Gardens.
- Each of our programs will be adapted to the age and developmental stage of children. Please discuss your children's interests and needs with our Learning Facilitator.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.



Royal  
Botanic  
Gardens  
Victoria