Exploring the Tropical Pavilion

Describe the Tropical Pavilion’s environment.

Does the air temperature feel warm or cool?

Is there a lot of sunlight? Explain.

Does the air feel moist (humid)? Is the soil moist?

What do you hear?

List two questions you have about this plant.

Name of plant: ____________________________________________________________

Plant part: _______________________________________________________________

Choose one plant and sketch the part that interests you most. Don’t forget to label what that part is!

Botanist’s Name
Steinhardt Conservatory Tropical Pavilion

1. Epiphytes
Most plants’ roots absorb water and mineral nutrients from soil, but epiphytes live high above the ground level in trees. How do you think they collect water and minerals?

2. Banana
Examine the size and shape of these banana leaves. Why are there grooves or channels down the center?

3. Black Pepper
Can you find the peppercorn fruit on this vine? How many clusters can you see?

Vines climb on other plants or rocks for support. How does climbing upward help this plant?

4. Cacao
Chocolate comes from the seeds of the cacao plant. Do you see any seedpods? Find three other plants in this pavilion with edible seeds or fruit and list them here:

1. 
2. 
3. 

5. Tamarind and Palm
Look at the leaves of these plants that reach into the canopy layer of the rainforest. They are getting plenty of sunlight. Are the understory plants beneath them getting sunlight too? Explain:

6. Anthurium
This plant has waxy leaves. Have you seen water dripped on a car or a floor that has been polished with wax? What happens to water when it hits a waxy surface?

Find another plant with waxy leaves and record its name here:

7. Mahogany
The tallest trees in the forest, like this mahogany, make up the emergent layer. What resource do they access by being so tall?

As tall and strong as it is, mahogany is considered an endangered species. Find out why nearby. What did you learn?