Plant Parts for Lunch!

Find a plant you like to eat. Do you eat it raw, cooked, or prepared in some other way?

Which part of the plant do you eat? I eat the leaves of _________.

When I eat _________, I eat the roots.

Fruits are the plant parts that enclose and dispense seeds. Can you find fruits that are sweet? Can you find fruits that are not sweet? Describe their flavor.

Tell a partner about your favorite plant part to eat.

An International Feast

Think of a fruit or vegetable you like to eat. Look in this garden, can you find it growing here?

Where in the world did it originally grow? Find its native region on a plant label or garden sign.

Can you find a plant used to add seasoning or spice to food? What do you like to eat with that flavor?

Rock Garden Scavenger Hunt

Who can be the first to find...

• A cactus
• A waterfall
• A plant less than five inches tall
• A rock that glitters
• Three different kinds of trees with needle-shaped leaves

Geological Detective Work

The boulders in this garden were all found at BBG but were carried here from elsewhere by a glacial ice sheet 30,000 years ago! A geologist studied them to learn their history. Read their labels to find the following:

• The rocks that had the longest and shortest journeys (250 and 15 miles).
• A rock containing serpentine, a green colored mineral.
• A rock formed during the Triassic period, when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Fragrance Garden

Exploring with Touch

Visitors are encouraged to gently touch the leaves (but not the flowers) of plants in this special garden.

Gently rub the leaf between your index finger and thumb as if you were feeling a soft fabric. Be careful not to crush the leaf. Describe how the leaf feels: soft/hairy/bumpy/smooth/waxy.

If the leaves have a scent, you will smell it on your fingers.

• Does the leaf smell like something you use or eat?
• Is the scent of the leaf different from the scent of the flower?

Braille Plant Signs

Look for the metal plant signs mounted on railings at the front of the planting beds.

These signs are written in two different alphabets. One uses the Latin alphabet (abc’s); the Braille alphabet uses a pattern of dots for each letter. It is read with the fingers.

Why would people use their fingers to read?

Native Flora Garden

An exhibit of plants native to the New York metropolitan area, this garden re-creates a variety of regional plant communities, including deciduous woodland, kettle pond, coastal meadow, and pine barrens.

Tree Parts Matchup

Look for evidence of trees on the ground: leaves, seeds, or seedpods (fruits).

Look up. Can you find the trees they came from?

Can you match up all the parts of three different trees (leaves, flowers or fruits, and seeds)?

Historic Giants

Calculate the ages of the trees in this area from the accession numbers on their plant labels (see A Plant Label Decoded, on reverse).

Can you find any that are 80 years old? 100 years old?

Native Wildlife

Compare the meadow (outside the fence) and forest habitats in this garden. Do you see wildlife or signs of wildlife in each habitat?

Are some animals found in only one location?