

Pan's Garden – Grade 7

To Be Completed at School BEFORE Field Trip

Have students complete the [Pre-Survey](#). Scan and email completed student surveys to Susan Lerner at slerner@palmbeachpreservation.org.

ENGAGE (Pre-Visit - at school): Ask students to brainstorm on what they know about food chains. NOTE: In FL public schools, this was taught in 4th grade.

Ask: [Questions for discussion below]

- Is the Sun part of a food chain?
- What are producers?
- What are consumers?
- Does a food chain just “end”?
- What happens to organisms when they die?
- Can dead organisms contribute to a food chain? If so, how?

Take note of prior knowledge and misconceptions.

EXPLORE Part 1 (Pre-Visit at school):

Show students [The Dirt on Decomposers](#) (3:18) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uB61rfeeAsM>.

Have students draw their own food chain (or as a group) with the Sun, a plant as a producer, and at least 3 consumers. Now, have students draw an arrow from the tertiary consumer back to the producer.

Ask: What does this arrow represent? (a decomposer)

Have students draw an example of a decomposer on this arrow. Have students draw another food chain with a decomposer and convert those food chains into a food web.