

# Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy

## K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Docent Guide

### *Japanese Garden:*

- **Water:** Identify the water. What is its color? What is its clarity? what is it used for? What lives in it? Is this a stream? is this a pond? These can also be discussed in the Riparian Streambed *TEKS SocialStudies.K.5.A; Science.K.7.B-C; SocialStudies.1.6.A; Science.1.7.B-C; Science.2.5.A; Science.2.7.B*
- **Bamboo:** What is this? Where is it from? Does anything use it? Note it is a type of grass. Touch the bamboo. How does it feel? How do people use Bamboo? (show bamboo fences in Bonsai Area or bamboo walls of tea house) *TEKS SocialStudies.K.5.B; SocialStudies.1.6.C; SocialStudies.2.7.C*

### *Herb Garden:*

- **Plant Parts:** Show that the Herb Garden has many plants. Ask "what are the parts of the plant". (Students should identify leaf, stem, flower, and roots) Discuss how sometimes the flowers smell, but sometimes the leaves smell. Guide them through telling them they can rub the leaves or smell the flowers, then ask what the smell is like. *TEKS SocialStudies.K.3.A, Science.K.10.B-D; SocialStudies.1.3.A; Science.1.10.B; SocialStudies.2.2.B; Science.2.9.A*

### *Prehistoric Garden:*

- **Ancient Plants & Dinosaurs:** What is a dinosaur? What did they eat? What is the Cretaceous Period. Ask students to say Cretaceous. This garden is full of plants that are 100 million years old, and that before that Austin was underwater. During the Cretaceous, Austin was a beach, and dinos walked here. Use chronology related terms (after, before, then) *TEKS SocialStudies.K.3.A-B; SocialStudies.1.3.A; SocialStudies.2.2.A-B*
- **Plant Life Cycles:** How do plants make more plants? Some plants make fruit, some plants make cones, and some plants make spores. Discuss one of the life cycles (e.g. Ferns have bumps under the leaf called sori. The sori are where spores are made- these spores look like brown dust that when it gets wet it grows into a new plant.) *TEKS SocialStudies.K.3.A, Science.K.10.B-D; SocialStudies.1.3.A; Science.1.10.B; SocialStudies.2.2.B; Science.2.9.A*