

Welcome Chaperone! Explore the Museum's main building — the Nature Exploration Center (NEC) — and be on the lookout for the plants of North Carolina. This guide offers easy activities to help you engage your students in learning.

### Throughout Museum

#### Plants All Around You

While exploring the Museum, look for a plant:

- that has woody stems and branches
- that climbs
- with needle-like leaves
- with leaves as big as your hand
- with leaves smaller than a quarter
- with flowers
- with cones

### First floor, Coastal North Carolina Gallery, *near the escalators*

#### Ocean Plants

Find the small sargassum display case and look closely at this plant.

Can you find the pea-sized air bladders that keep this plant afloat?  
How many different animals can you find that call this sargassum raft home?

### Second floor, Mountains to the Sea Gallery, *near the elevators*

#### Carnivorous Plants

As you walk through the Savanna exhibit ...

How many different carnivorous plants can you find?  
How does a pitcher plant capture its prey?  
(Answer can be found in the display panel text.)

Look at the live plant display near the escalator that goes up to the third floor.

### Third floor, Tropical Connections Gallery

#### Tropical Adaptations

When you find the acacia ants ...

Learn how acacia ants and acacia trees help each other survive.  
(Plants get protection from leaf eaters and a weeding service. Ants get nest sites, food, and nectar.)

Watch the ants on the acacia tree on display. Do you see any ants coming in or out of the thorn nests, collecting yellow food packets, or drinking nectar?

