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?