

# Journey Through Rare Books Pre-Trip Activity

To prepare your students for the investigations they will do on site, we recommend doing this activity prior to your visit.

## Research Reflection

Purpose: To discover what students think about research and current research methods

Materials:

- Copies of the following 1/2 sheet

Steps:

- 1) Divide the students into four groups.

For your information, at the Chicago Botanic Garden each group will observe and research one of the following plants:

Indian Fig/Prickly Pear *Opuntia ficus-indica* Coffee  
*Coffea spp.*  
Banana *Musa acuminata*  
Cacao *Theobroma cacao*

- 2) Have each student respond to the questions posed on the following 1/2 sheet.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you were assigned a specific plant to research, how you would go about obtaining information about that plant? Describe your search methods.

Where would you go?

Who would ask?

What keywords would you use?

Would you consider all of the sources you encounter in your research? Why or why not?

Please bring this sheet with you to the Chicago Botanic Garden and be prepared to share the above information.

Thank you.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you were assigned a specific plant to research, how you would go about obtaining information about that plant? Describe your search methods.

Where would you go?

Who would ask?

What keywords would you use?

Would you consider all of the sources you encounter in your research? Why or why not?

Please bring this sheet with you to the Chicago Botanic Garden and be prepared to share the above information.

Thank you.

# Journey Through Rare Books Pre-Trip Activity

This activity will build upon the learning experiences from the field trip, we recommend doing this activity after your visit.

## Final Project

**Purpose:** To assess what students know about research methods

**Materials:**

- Assorted (see steps)

**Steps:**

Have each group create a document (drawing, Power Point slide, essay, poem, photography, etc) no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches to:

Explain the uses of the plant throughout time. In your opinion, what is important about what you discovered? Provide evidence for any statements you make Possible questions to consider:

Who used the plant 500 years ago?

Who uses the plant today?

Have changes in who uses the plant occurred throughout time? If so, how?

Have changes in how the plant is used occurred throughout time? If so, how?

Any other interesting and/or relevant information about the plant.

Any other interesting and/or relevant information about their research methods.

Final projects that are sent to the Chicago Botanic Garden will be placed in the Lenhardt Library.