HUMMINGBIRDS ARE THE ONLY SPECIES THAT CAN FLY BACK-WARDS.

slither

SLITHER LIKE A SNAKE

BIRDS HAVE HOLLOW BONES WHICH HELP THEM FLY.

flutter

FLUTTER LIKE A BUTTERFLY

hoot &

ONLY FEMALE MOSQUITOES BITE PEOPLE.

HOOT LIKE AN OWL

IN THE AMAZON, GIANT WATER LILIES CAN GROW TO BE OVER 6 FEET IN DIAMETER.

holler!

HOLLER OUT LOUD!

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR WILD SIDE WHILE EXPLORING

McKEE
BOTANICAL GARDEN

welcome to mckee botanical garden,

an 18-acre subtropical hammock located in VERO BEACH, Florida that is home to more than 10,000 native and tropical plants as well as 90 SPECIES of WATERLILIES. The history of MCKEE dates back to the 1920's when it was first established by *Waldo E. Sexton* and *Arthur G. McKee*. The GARDEN has CHANGED a lot since its early days, and you'll LEARN more about its unique PAST as you navigate your way through its HISTORIC BUILDINGS, PATHS and WATERWAYS. Use this guide as a TOOL to help you throughout your JOURNEY, and enjoy your visit to *McKee Botanical Garden*!

Can you find the hidden Tiki Statue?

Can you imagine the size of the tree used to make the table in the Hall of Giants?

sock walk

EXPLORE HOW SEEDS CAN TRAVEL AND PLANT THEMSELVES.

WHAT YOU NEED:

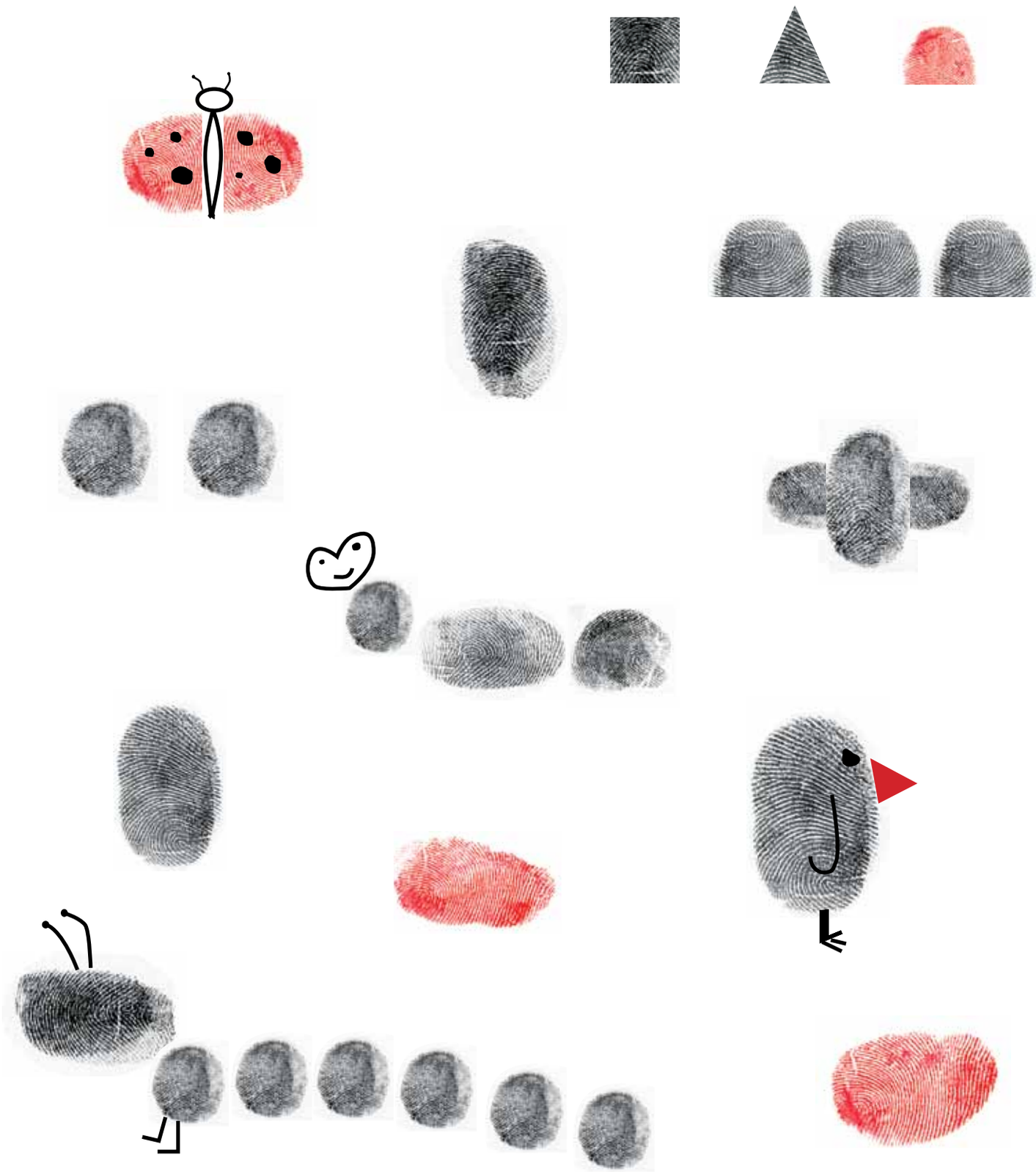
- 1 pair of long, old, white cotton socks
- Access to an area over grown with grass and weeds
- 9 x 13-inch baking pan
- Potting soil (enough to fill the socks)
- Plant mister filled with water
- Brick or similar size block
- 1 Adult

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Pull the socks over your child's shoes and pant legs.
2. Take a walk in a vacant lot, park, or other area overgrown with grass and weeds. (Watch out for grass stickers, thorns and ticks.)
3. After your walk, pull off the socks. Look carefully at the seeds your child has collected on the socks, but do not remove the seeds.
4. Fill the socks with damp potting soil. Spray the socks with the plant mister and lay them in the baking pan.
5. Prop a brick or large block under one end of the pan so the pan is tilting.
6. At the lower end of the pan, add enough water so the ends of the socks can soak up the water and be completely wet.
7. Put the pan in a warm, sunny place.
8. During the next 10 days, continue to put enough water in the lower end of the pan to keep the socks wet. Mist the socks every other day with water.

fingerprints

CAN YOU TURN THESE FINGERPRINTS INTO CREATURES?



PERGOLA AT ENTRANCE

Butterflies, insects and birds love to play in this gigantic trellis covered with flowering vines. Some of the blossoms are very rare and have interesting names like Dutchman's Pipe, Purple Queen's Wreath, Passion Flowers and Butterfly Vines.

HALL of GIANTS

Check out the largest mahogany table IN THE WORLD found in the Hall of Giants. This single slab of Philippine wood is 5 inches thick and measures 35' long. This centerpiece of the historic Hall of Giants came to McKee Jungle Gardens in 1940. It has been said that "The table was so huge that 10 mounted horsemen once stood on it side by side, accompanied by a couple of small boys, a dog, three kittens and a string of catfish."

HISTORIC STONE BRIDGE AND POND VIEWING AREA

Check the water's edge for small non-venomous banded water snakes. McKee has several species of non-venomous snakes such as black racers, rat snakes and brown-banded water snakes. Please use caution and view all snakes from a safe distance.

BRIDGES OVER THE WATERY MAZE

Check the water underneath the bridges for aquatic life, especially the brown-banded water snake. The bridges can also provide good spots for viewing butterflies and dragonflies.

BAMBOO PAVILION

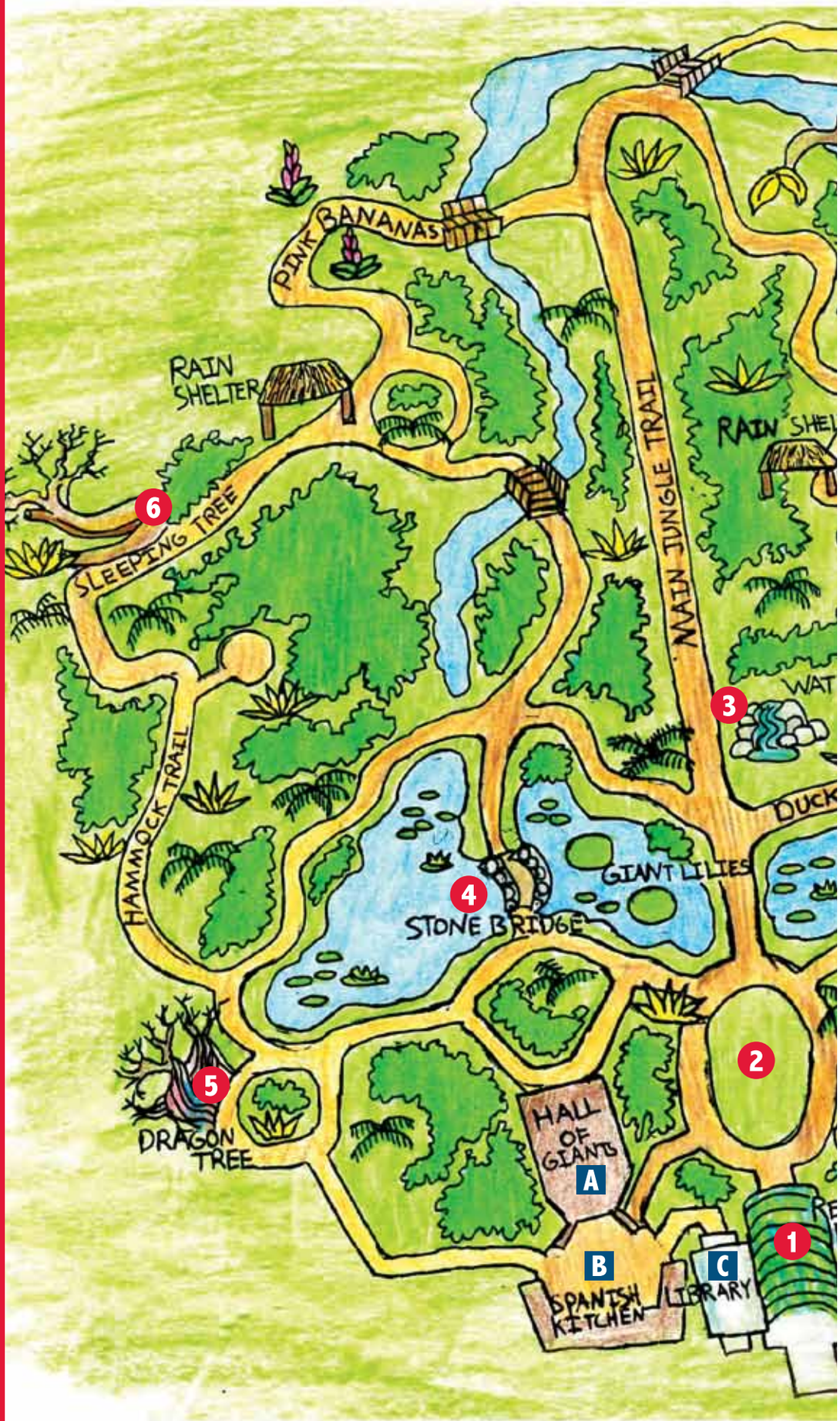
It is the first bamboo structure of its kind in the United States. The pavilion demonstrates the amazing strength and environmental friendliness of bamboo. Look up at the palm roof – Chief Osceola of the Seminole Indian Tribe supervised its traditional chickee-style construction. Look for the many species of bamboo that grow around the pavilion. Bamboo, a fast-growing grass, is a renewable resource.

CYPRESS STUMP

This enormous stump came from a cypress tree cut for the lumber near St. Cloud, Florida in the late 1920's. The original tree was about 2,000 years old and stood over 100 feet tall. The stump was moved to McKee Jungle Gardens in 1932. What type of animals may want to make their home in the stump?

TIKI ROOM

Tucked away off a secret trail on the north side of the Garden is a hidden tiki statue with a bromeliad plant for hair. This tiki guards a secret seating area complete with a bench and lush foliage.



Map designed by Dania Grevengoed

map legend

GARDEN FEATURES

1. Pergola
2. Greeting Area
3. Waterfall
4. Stone Bridge
5. Dragon Tree
6. Sleeping Tree
7. Old Man of the Jungle
8. Banyan Tree
9. Watery Maze
10. Meditation Garden
11. Bamboo Pavilion
12. Garden Folly
13. Royal Palm Grove

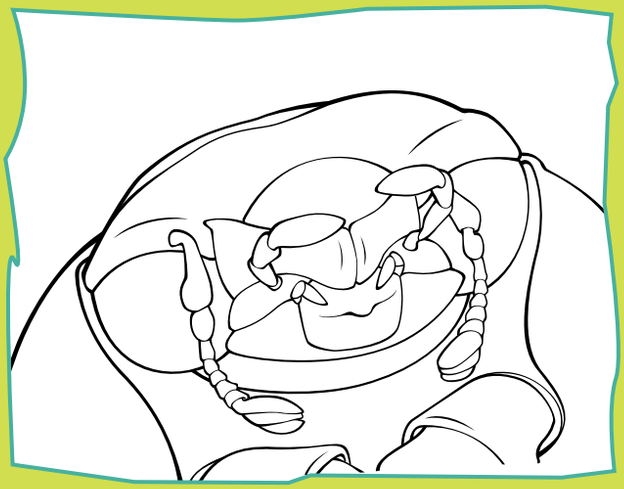
BUILDINGS

- A Hall of Giants
- B Spanish Kitchen
- C Library
- D Gift Shop/Admissions
- E Garden Cafe
- F Education Building
- Restrooms

ugly bugs

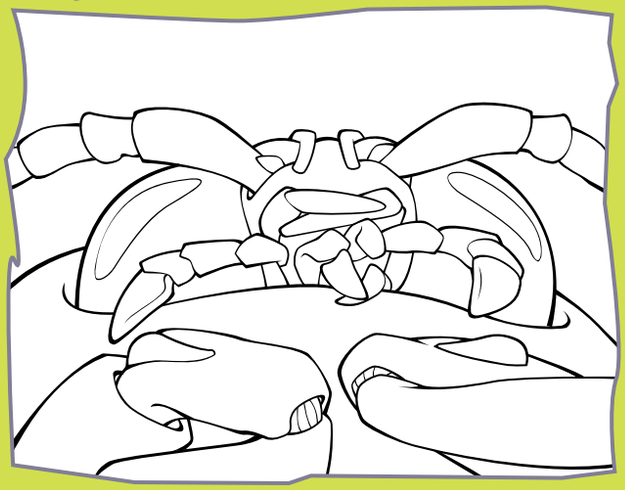
COLOR AS YOU LEARN
ABOUT SOME OF THE UGLY
BUGS AT MCKEE

i kill plants for a living



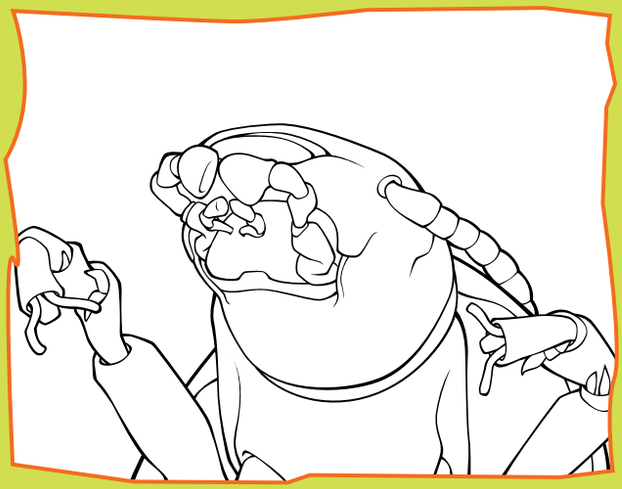
June Bug *(Coleoptera)*

i glow even as a larvae



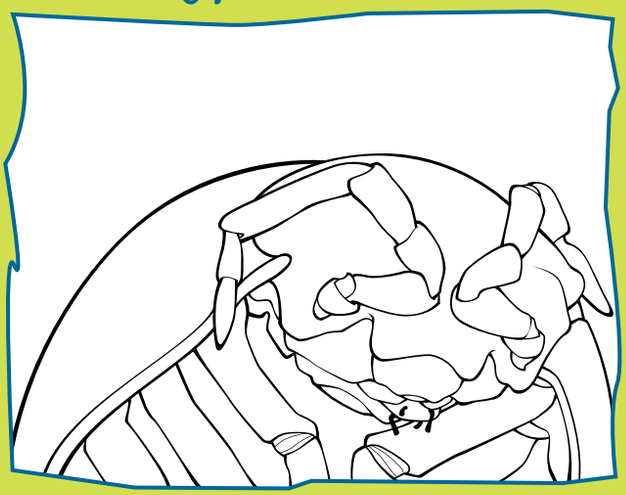
Firefly or Lightning bug *(Coleoptera)*

i spray to keep you away



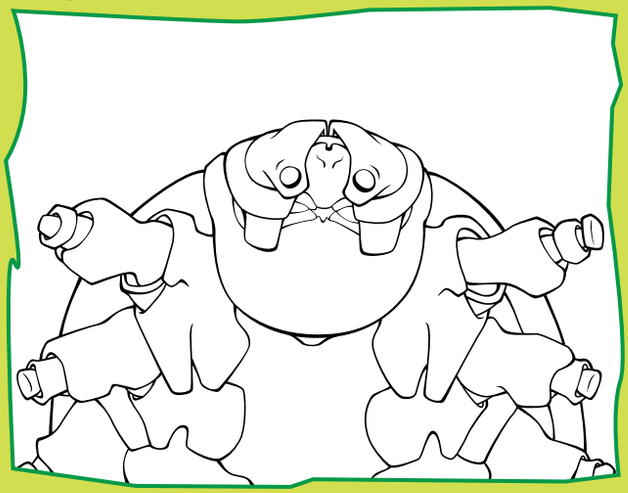
Darkling, Pinacate or Stink Beetle *(Coleoptera)*

i'm so ugly i have no enemies



Pill bug, potato bug or roly-poly *(Isopoda)*

i feed on blood



Tick *(Acari)*

i spy...

OBJECTS IN THE GARDEN

- [ ] A leaf on the ground
- [ ] Rocks with different colors
- [ ] A pine cone
- [ ] Mud
- [ ] Clover leaf
- [ ] A bird
- [ ] A squirrel
- [ ] An owl

i spy...

COLORS IN THE GARDEN

something red _____

something brown _____

something pink _____

something blue _____

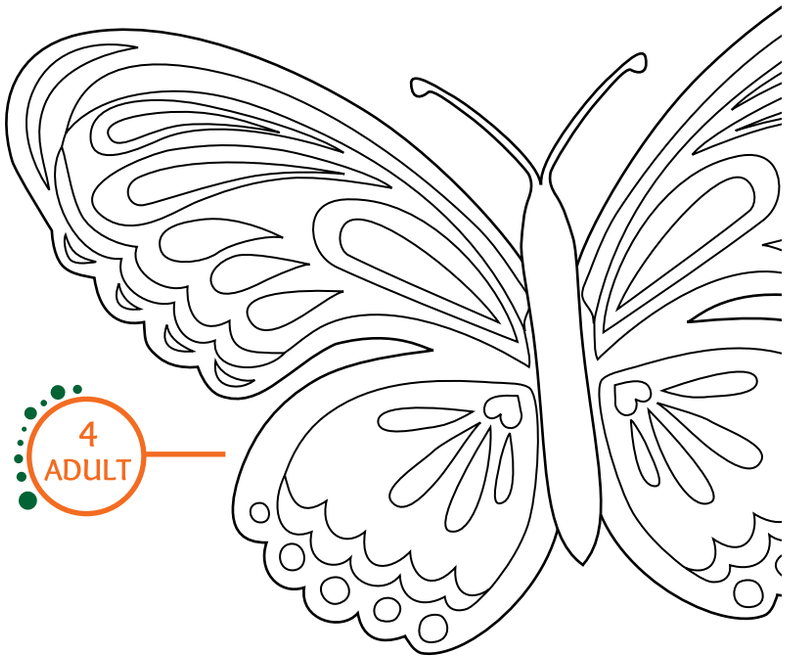
something yellow _____

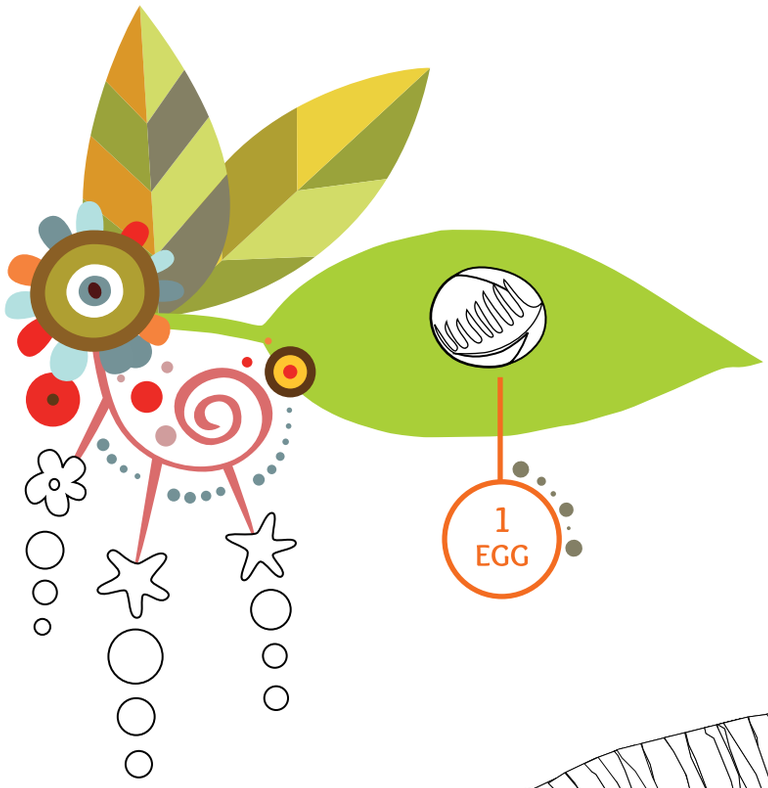
something green _____

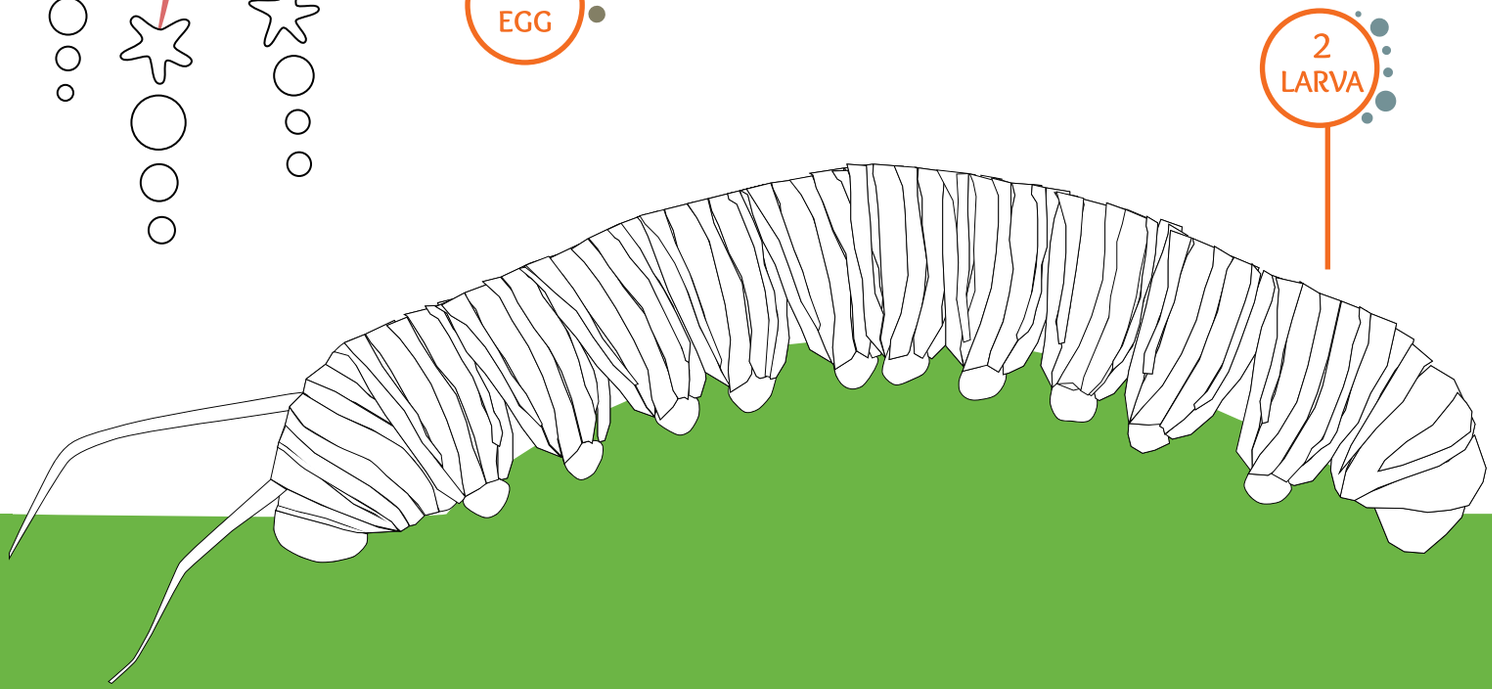
something orange _____

butterflies

IN THE GARDEN



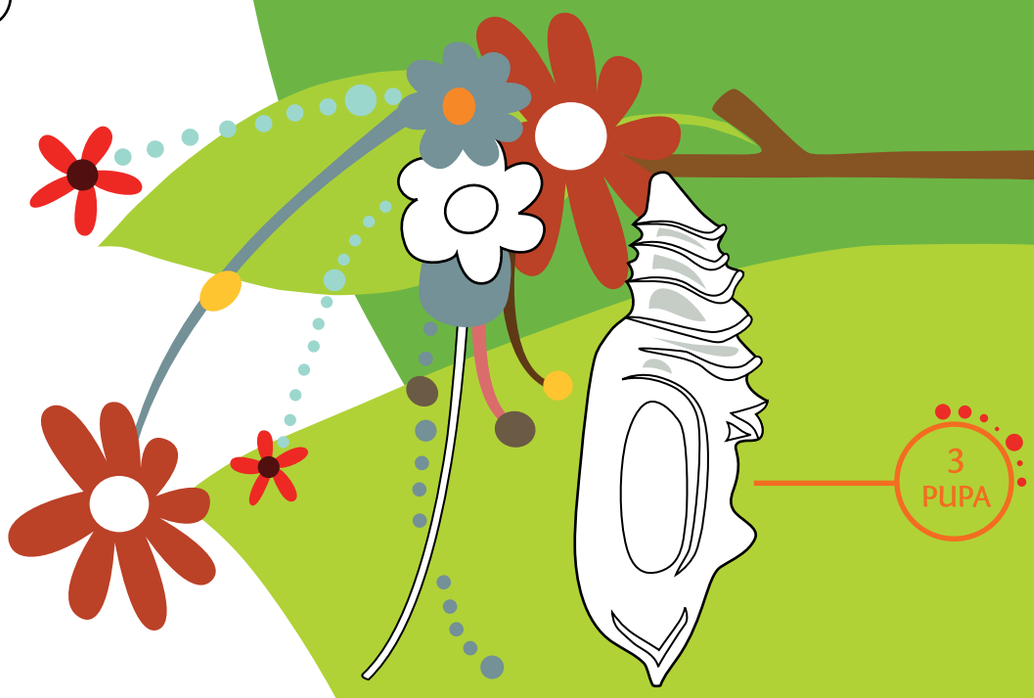




- Butterflies can't fly if their body temperature is below 86 F
- Some monarch butterflies fly 3,000 miles to get to their winter home, then fly back again in the spring. It can take 2 months to go from Washington D.C. to Mexico.

A **Butterfly** goes through **4** steps to become an **ADULT**. These changes during development are known as **METAMORPHOSIS**

1 EGG
2 LARVA (caterpillar)
3 PUPA (chrysalis)
4 ADULT



how to attract butterfly

1 PLANT NECTAR-PRODUCING FLOWERS:

- Asters
- Azaleas
- Black-Eyed Susan
- Blazing Stars
- Butterfly Weed
- Cardinal Flower
- Goldenrod
- Ironweed
- Milkweed
- Coneflowers
- Stonecrop
- Sunflowers

2 MAKING A FRUITY MASH TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES:

- 1lb Sugar
- 1 Mashed, overripe Banana *(or other fruit)*
- 1 Cup of Fruit Juice
- 1 Cup of Molasses or Syrup

Mix together, leave in the sun for an hour or two *(no longer or it will dry up)*, and paint on a tree in the late afternoon.

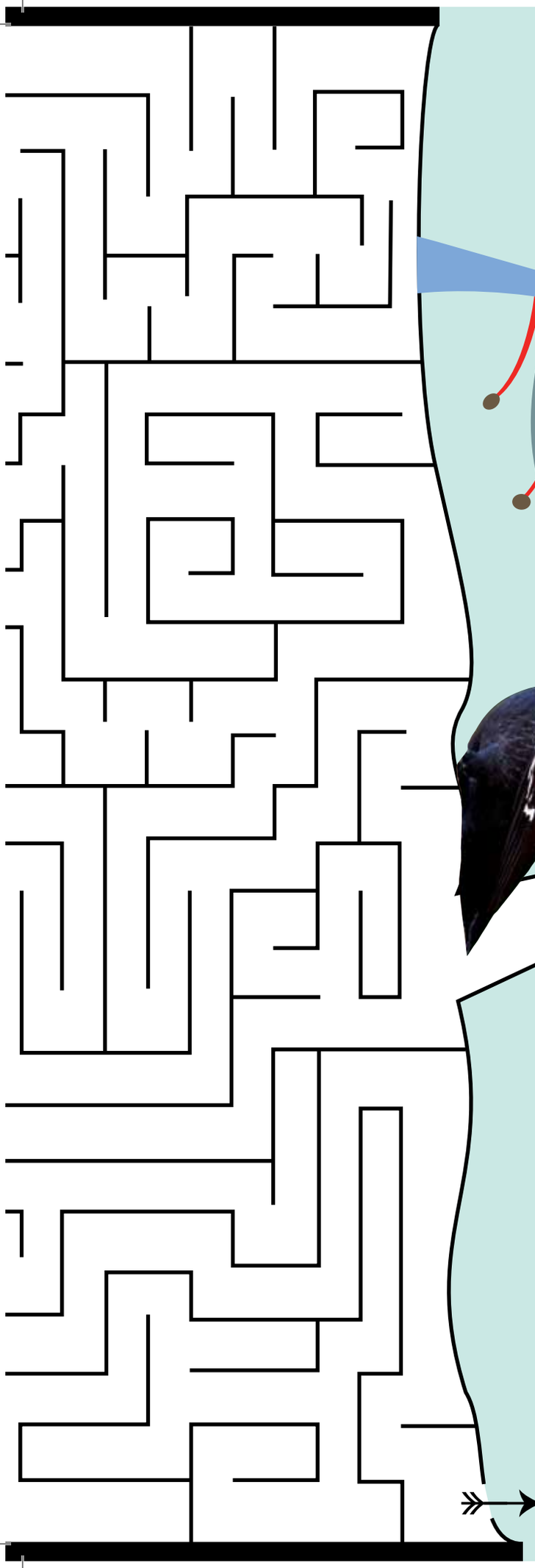
great horned owl

I am a nocturnal hunter that can be found resting high in the Garden's taller trees. In the late afternoon you may hear my deep hoots.

birds OF MCKEE

WHY ARE *Birds* IMPORTANT TO THE GARDEN?

Birds play a very important role in the GARDEN and in the ENVIRONMENT. Our fine feathered friends feed on the bugs and insects that would otherwise destroy our TREES, GRASS and FOLIAGE. They also keep rodents from ruining the GARDEN. Fruit-eating *birds* help spread SEEDS which sprout into new plants, while other SPECIES such as the *hummingbird* pollinate certain nectar-producing plants by carrying pollen from FLOWER to FLOWER as they search for nectar to feed on. Lastly, *birds* add color to the GARDEN with their bright FEATHERS, and their lively SONGS are MUSIC that everyone can enjoy.



belted kingfisher

I can be seen diving for minnows and small aquatic prey in the Garden's watery areas.

pileated woodpecker

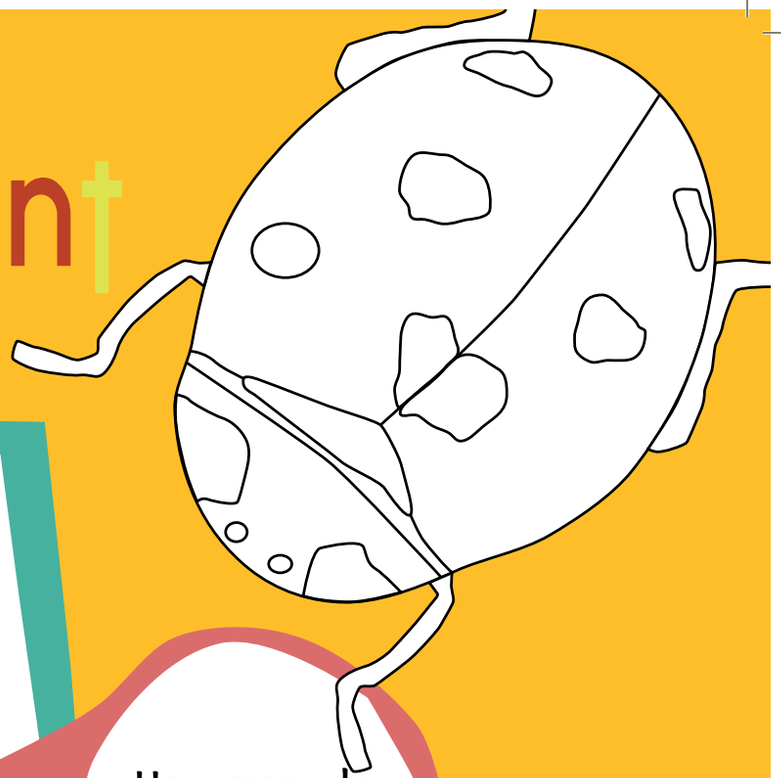
I can be found near the big pines at the south end of the Garden as well as in the Royal Palm Grove.

blue herons

I can be found near the stone bridge wading in the Garden's ponds and streams hunting for fish to eat.

creature hunt

TAKE A HANDFUL OF LEAF LITTER AND PLACE IT ON THE WHITE BOX BELOW. LEAVE IT SITTING IN THE SUN AND SEE WHAT CREATURES CRAWL OUT.



How many do you see in 30 seconds?

McKee Botanical Garden's Children's Guide was made possible through the generosity of Quail Valley Charities, Inc.

QUAIL VALLEY GOLF CLUB
CHARITY CUP

350 US Highway 1
Vero Beach, Florida 32962
T: 772.794.0601
www.mckeegarden.org

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