

N S M
National Museum
of Singapore

YOUNG EXPLORER'S TRAIL

Desire and Danger
Goh Seng Choo Gallery

Story of the Forest
Glass Rotunda

RECOMMENDED
FOR 5 TO 12
YEAR OLDS



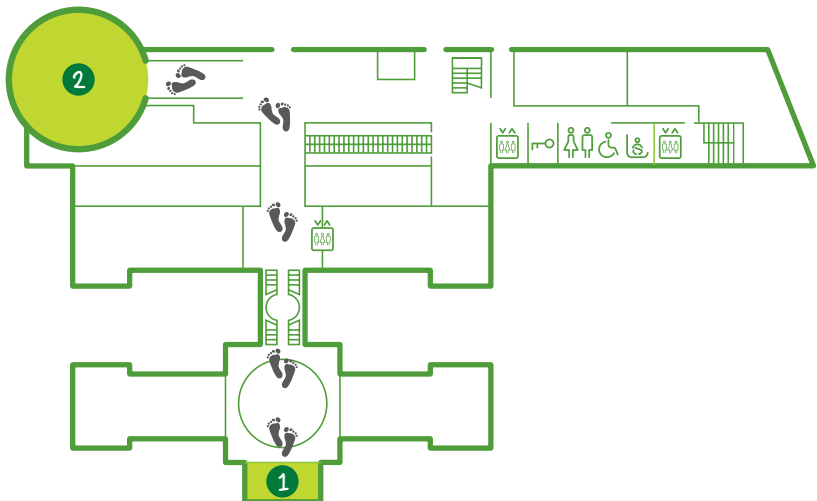
My name is _____

Explorer _____

Today, I will be going on an exploration trail at the Goh Seng Choo Gallery and Glass Rotunda in the National Museum of Singapore. The Goh Seng Choo Gallery is home to the museum's treasured William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings. Drawing inspiration from this collection, *Story of the Forest* brings to life 69 drawings within the museum's Glass Rotunda.

Level 2

Glass Rotunda:
Story of the Forest



Goh Seng Choo Gallery:
Desire and Danger

DID YOU KNOW?

William Farquhar was the first British Resident and Commandant (officer-in-charge) of Singapore from 1819 to 1823. A nature lover, William Farquhar was likely to have appointed Chinese artists to draw and document the plants and animals found in the Malay Peninsula in the 19th century – approximately 200 years ago! There are **477** drawings in the William Farquhar collection.



A portrait of William Farquhar (1774–1839)

In the early 19th century (1800s), Singapore had many forests and mangrove swamps, and was home to tigers (yes, tigers!) that were feared by Chinese planters, who grew gambier and pepper in plantations. It was not until the mid-19th century (1850s) that much of the forest land was cleared to make way for plantations and roads, affecting the flora and fauna (animal life) in the forests.



A drawing of Gambier

Gambier is obtained from the leaves of the gambier plant, and is used as a brown dye, a food additive and as herbal medicine. Gambier and pepper plants were usually grown together as the gambier leaf acted as a fertiliser for the pepper plants.



Today, we will journey through the *Goh Seng Choo Gallery and Glass Rotunda* to take a peek into Singapore's natural world in the 19th century.

MISSION

My mission today is to find as many plants and animals in the galleries.
Let's set off on this mission together! Here is an image of me, wearing my explorer hat.

Draw an image of yourself here!



I am ready to explore the diverse flora and fauna of our region. Let's go!

MUSEUM ETIQUETTE



We can spy with our little eyes, and get our fellow explorers to guess the plants and animals that we spot along the way by describing them.



Listen to the sounds in the galleries. What do we hear? Can you guess the animals that make these sounds?



Take as many photographs as we would like, young explorer. Let's remember not to use flash photography as this will startle the animals.



Let's keep our voices low as we share our sightings with each other. Walk, instead of run – let's be considerate to the many other explorers on the trail!



Most importantly, let's have fun together!

GOH SENG CHOO GALLERY

We will first explore the Goh Seng Choo Gallery! Titled *Desire and Danger*, this exhibition explores the useful and harmful aspects of these plants and animals.

We will be using our senses to find some plants and animals in the gallery.
Let's go!

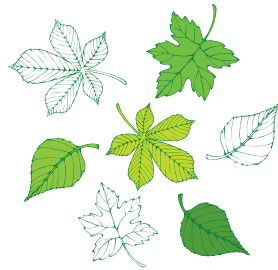


Listen carefully to the sounds in the gallery.
What do you hear?

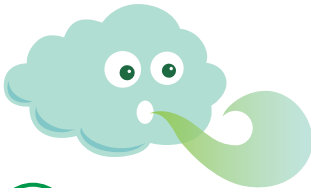
I hear...



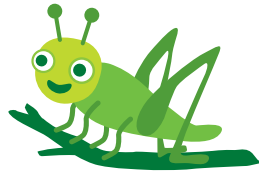
A bird chirping



Leaves rustling



Wind blowing



A cricket chirping
/ singing



Enter the gallery and turn to your left. Locate and smell the box labelled “Breadflower”. What does it remind you of? How does it smell?

The breadflower smells _____

sour

fresh

pungent

musty

Sweet

Try the other scent stations. Which is your favourite scent?
Why?



Find these paintings below. Write down their names, and the useful and harmful effects of these plants and animals.



This is a _____

It is wanted for:

•

It is feared for:

•



This is a _____

It is wanted for:

•

It is feared for:

•



This is a _____

It is wanted for:

•

It is feared for:

•

Next, find your way to the Glass Rotunda. Let's start exploring the *Story of the Forest* there.



Look out for the plants and animals shown below when you enter the Glass Rotunda.



Mangrove Fan Palm



Torch Ginger



Mangosteen Tree



Zebra Dove



Malayan Tapir



Hibiscus



Sambar Deer



Smooth Otter

Do put down the booklet for now as it will be dark inside in order for us to be able to see the screens. We will come back to the booklet once you have finished viewing the *Story of the Forest*. Have fun!

GLASS ROTUNDA

Welcome back, Explorer! Tick ☒ the circles next to the plants and animals that you found in *Story of the Forest*. Which is your favourite plant or animal? Share them with your friends and family!

I am a Mangrove Fan Palm.

DID YOU FIND ME? ☐

- I can be found in Asia.
- I have beautiful circular fan-shaped leaves.
- I am commonly used as a decorative plant.

The shape of my leaves form a c _ _ _ _ _ .



No wonder you are called the Mangrove Fan Palm!



I am a Torch Ginger.

DID YOU FIND ME? ☐

- I was originally from Malaysia and Indonesia, but can also be found in gardens in Singapore.
- My flower bud is usually sliced and used in *rjak*, a local spicy vegetable salad.

Try it the next time you order *rjak*. How did it taste? SWEET / SOUR / SPICY / BITTER



Just like how
Vanda Miss Joaquim
is Singapore's
national flower!

I am a Hibiscus.

DID YOU FIND ME? ○

- I can be found in parks, private homes and gardens.
- My roots, leaves and flowers can be used to make traditional medicines.
- I am the national flower of Malaysia.

Have you seen me before?

I can also be found in other colours such as white, p _ _ k and yellow!

I am a Mangosteen Tree.

DID YOU FIND ME? ○

- I can be found all around Southeast Asia.
- My fruit – mangosteen, which is said to have a “cooling effect”, is also known as the “Queen of Fruits”.



Be careful when you eat my fruit, the juice from mangosteens can leave stains on clothing!

GLASS ROTUNDA

I am a Malayan Tapir.

DID YOU FIND ME? ○

- I used to be found in Southeast Asia, but now I can only be found in the Malay Peninsula and in some parts of Sumatra.
- William Farquhar described me as the only animal besides the elephant to have a trunk.



How cool
is that?



Can you spot and circle
my trunk?



I am a Sambar Deer.

DID YOU FIND ME? ○

- I have a dull brown coloured coat!
- Although some people think that I can no longer be found in Singapore, I have been spotted in Singapore's Central Catchment Nature Reserves.

How many sambar deers
did you spot inside *Story
of the Forest*? _____

I am a Zebra Dove.

DID YOU FIND ME? ○

- I can sing very well.
- I am also known as the peaceful dove.
- I can be found in Singapore – try identifying me the next time you see a bird!

My name is made up of two different animals, the _ _ _ _ _ and the _ _ _ _ _ .



Wow,
it's literally
a songbird!



I am a Smooth Otter.

DID YOU FIND ME? ○

- I can be found along coastal areas in Southeast Asia, such as Sungei Buloh Wetlands Reserve in Singapore.
- You can sometimes find me with my family. There can be 15 of us!

Have you seen me before?
(YES / NO) If yes, where?

If you did not manage to spot some of these plants and animals, look out for them the next time you visit *Story of the Forest*!

GLASS ROTUNDA

Can you help to match the correct flora and fauna to the hints provided below?



Malayan Sun Bear



Reticulated Python

- I am one of the largest birds in the Malaysian rainforest.
- I can no longer be found in Singapore, but can still be found in forested areas in Malaysia.
- I have a long, brightly coloured bill.

HINT:

R _ _ n _ _ _ _ os
Ho _ _ _ i _ _

- I am a tall tree that can grow up to 25 metres in height.
- I can live for as long as a century. (That is 100 years old!)
- I bear a large black fruit, which contains a juice similar to that of the coconut.

HINT:

_ _ l m _ _ a
P _ l _



Rhinoceros Hornbill

- I am a mammal that feeds on honey, small animals and fruits.
- I can be found in forests around Southeast Asia, but I am in danger of disappearing due to the clearing of rainforests and illegal hunting. 😞
- I have a pale patch on my chest.

HINT:

M _ _ _ y a _ _ _ n
_ _ a r



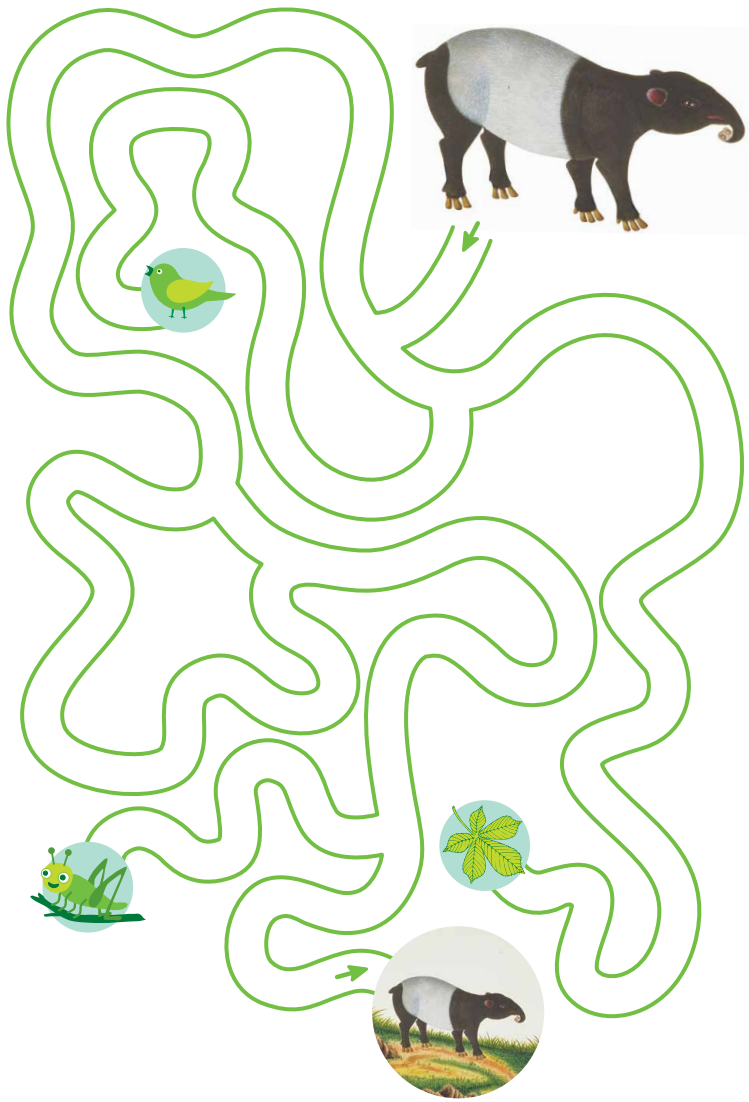
Palmyra Palm

- I am an amphibian that can be found in Singapore and Malaysia.
- Despite my size, I can swallow larger animals, such as deer, and even people!

HINT:

_ _ t _ c _ l _ t e _
p _ t _ _ _

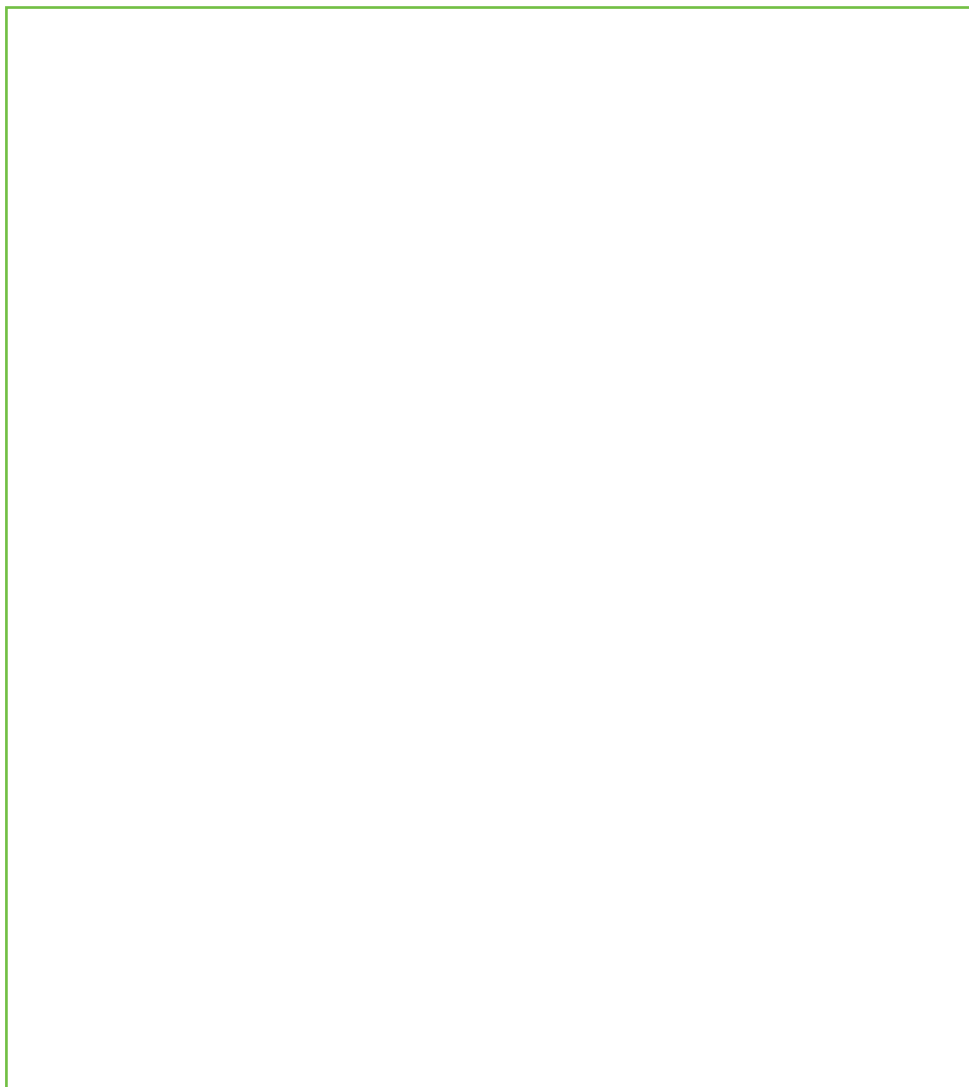
Can you help mummy Tapir find baby Tapir?



Dear Explorer, you've come to the end of your journey. Do continue the fun at home with the following activities! We hope to see you again!

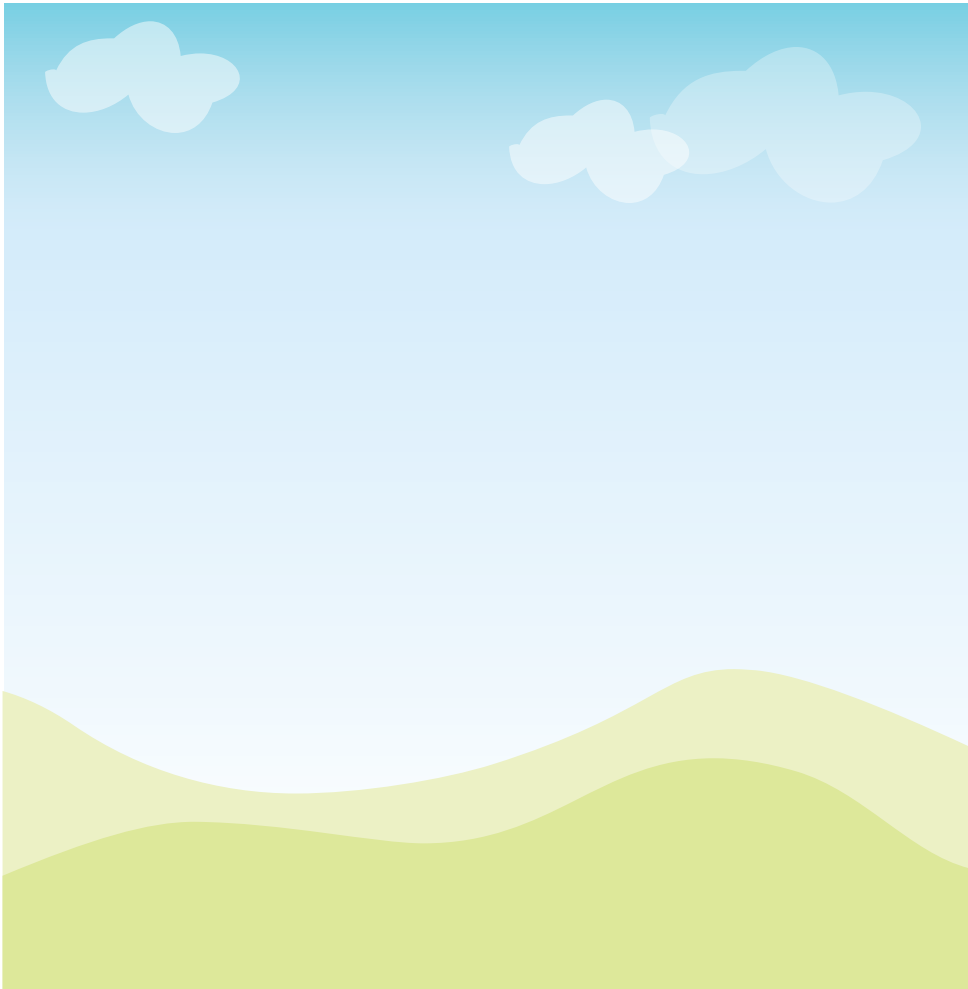
When you get home, you can...

Take photographs or draw images of plants and animals that you see around your home and neighbourhood, and create your very own *Danger and Desire* exhibition!



Create your very own Story of the Forest!

What plants and animals did you find? Which are your favourites?
Draw them below, and give your forest a name!



My forest is called

VISITOR INFORMATION

Exhibition Opening Hours

10am to 7pm

(last admission to Glass Rotunda at 6.15pm; last admission to all other galleries at 6.30pm)

Admission

Free admission for Citizens, Permanent Residents (unless otherwise stated) and visitors aged 6 years and below.

Others

Adult	\$15
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Student & Senior aged 60 & above with valid ID	\$10
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Each ticket includes admission to the Singapore History Gallery, Life in Singapore: The Past 100 Years Galleries, Goh Seng Choo Gallery, Glass Rotunda and the special exhibition at the Stamford Gallery. Please present proof of eligibility to enjoy concessions. Tickets are available from the National Museum Visitor Services counter and SISTIC.

Wheelchair Access and Lockers

Lifts provide easy access to galleries. Lockers are available for visitors' use. Please enquire at the Visitor Services Counter.

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DESIRE AND DANGER
GOH SENG CHOO GALLERY

STORY OF THE FOREST
GLASS ROTUNDA



#FARQUHARCOLLECTION

Free admission for Citizens and Permanent Residents.