

## Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Signature Virtual Explorations

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' virtual explorations consist of pre-recorded virtual tours and complementary curricular packets for area educators who might not be able to travel to the Downtown Sarasota and Historic Spanish Point campuses. They can also be used to augment a guided or self-guided tour. Each curricular packet thoughtfully combines numerous instructional standards in social studies, science, math, and language arts. Virtual explorations are free of charge. To book a virtual exploration, please visit [selby.org/dsc/dsc-school-teacher-programs/fieldtrips/](https://selby.org/dsc/dsc-school-teacher-programs/fieldtrips/), or email [schools@selby.org](mailto:schools@selby.org).

### Downtown Sarasota Campus Virtual Garden Tour (grades K-5)

This exploration features a pre-recorded video tour of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus (approx. 15 minutes). The tour is a brief introduction to the Gardens and the fascinating plants and habitats found there—from the rainforest to the desert to our favorite local superstars, the mangroves.

This virtual tour is complemented by several downloadable curricular packets that support multiple science, math, and language arts standards through explorations of native plants, rainforest conservation, butterfly metamorphosis, plant adaptations, and more! Activities in the curricular units can be modified by teachers for at-home virtual learning or extended to address additional standards.

*Specific standards and benchmarks addressed are referenced within each PDF unit.*

### Where Land Meets Sea: Mangroves and Estuaries Virtual Tour (grades 6-12)

Created especially for middle and high school life-science classes, this exploration focusing on estuaries and mangroves will broaden students' understanding of Southwest Florida's coastal wetlands and Sarasota Bay, and our interconnectedness with these precious ecosystems.

This exploration features two pre-recorded video tours (approx. 15 minutes each). Students will virtually stroll along Selby Gardens' beautiful bayfront to discover the unique traits that allow mangroves to survive and thrive in coastal conditions, and they'll explore how the maze of the mangrove root system contributes not only to coastal wetland ecosystems but also to nearby ecosystems as well. Students will then virtually hop aboard the *Carefree Learner* (Sarasota High School's floating classroom) for an investigation of the beautifully biodiverse Sarasota Bay, discover the living and non-living elements of an estuarine ecosystem, and have an up-close-and-personal encounter with some of the creatures that call this important estuary home.

Accompanying this virtual tour is a K-12 curricular unit exploring the unique contributions and environmental vulnerability of these amazing ecosystems.





## **Archaeology and Indigenous Peoples at Historic Spanish Point Campus Virtual Tour (grades 3-5)**

Designed for third to fifth grade students, this exploration introduces students to archaeology and the Indigenous peoples who inhabited this area beginning approximately 5,000 years ago.

This exploration features a pre-recorded video tour (approx. 25 minutes) of the important archaeological features at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus. Students will learn how early peoples lived and built their societies in Florida. They will also learn about the science of archaeology and how archaeologists study the ancient past.

Accompanying this virtual tour is a downloadable curriculum packet with six interdisciplinary activities—including a simulated archaeological excavation—which can be done in the classroom or modified for online learning from home.

## **Pioneer Life at Historic Spanish Point Campus Virtual Tour (4th grade)**

Designed for 4th grade students, this exploration introduces students to what we know about pioneer life at the Historic Spanish Point campus.

This exploration features a pre-recorded video tour (approx. 33 minutes) of the Guptill House, Pioneer Boatyard, and Packing House at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus. Students will learn about what attracted pioneers to Historic Spanish Point and what their day-to-day lives were like. Students will also learn about the research methods used to gather information about pioneer life.

This exploration is accompanied by an interdisciplinary curricular unit, with seven activities that thoughtfully combine numerous instructional standards in social studies, science, math, and language arts. Students will analyze primary sources like historians do, build boats to sharpen both STEM and financial literacy skills, and even learn about the delicious science behind churning butter!

## **Embracing our (Bio)Differences Virtual Leaf Lab (grades K-8)**

Every leaf has a story. Explore the stories four leaves have to tell in the Embracing Our (Bio)Differences Virtual Leaf Lab. This pre-recorded virtual leaf lab (approx. 5 minutes) was made in partnership with Embracing Our Differences to virtually Make-A-Day Of It!

## ***We Dream A World Virtual Tour (grades 3-12)***

In collaboration with the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens exhibited *We Dream A World: African American Landscape Painters of Mid-Century Florida, The Highwaymen*. Curated by Radiah Lovette Harper, this exhibition explored the artists' use of native botanical imagery to achieve economic success within the confines of a still segregated Florida. We would like to invite students to explore this exhibition virtually. This virtual experience consists of an on-demand virtual tour of the exhibition (approx. 5 minutes), a PowerPoint of the art exhibited, and curricular units for grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.



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