

United States Botanic Garden



Plant Passport  
Parts of a Plant



# **cacao**

(*Theobroma cacao*)

Location: Garden Court

When my flowers are pollinated, fruits full of seeds form on my trunk and branches. My seeds are fermented, dried, then roasted to make what we know as cocoa, one of the main ingredients in chocolate.



**Fig**  
*(Ficus carica)*

Location: Mediterranean

I am native to the Middle East and western Asia. What you call my fruit is actually an inverted cluster of hundreds of fruits all fused together. When I am growing in the wild, I am pollinated by tiny wasps which live most of their lives inside my fruit.



## Bullhorn acacia

(*Vachellia cornigera*)

Location: Plant Adaptations

I evolved with ants that protect me from herbivores and other plants. In return, I provide the ants food from my leaves and housing in hollow spines, my "horns."

## Orchid Flower

Location: Orchids

I am a flower, and I use my color, scent and shape to attract pollinators. As a flower, my sole purpose is to make seeds in order to reproduce. I do this through pollination.



# swiss cheese plant

(*Monstera deliciosa*)

Location: The Tropics

Look at my leaf. That is where I make my food. The holes in my leaves allow sunlight to reach my lower leaves. They also protect me because predators think I have already been chewed and will leave me alone!



# epiphytic orchid

Location: The Tropics

Not all roots are in soil. Find an orchid whose white squishy roots are hanging out above ground. They still use these roots to get water and nutrients.



# old man cactus

(*Cephalocereus senilis*)

Location: World Deserts

My hairs protect me from the sun and wind. My spines, which are modified leaves, are hidden under my hair and protect me from predators looking for food or water. Living in the desert, I need to hold on to my water.

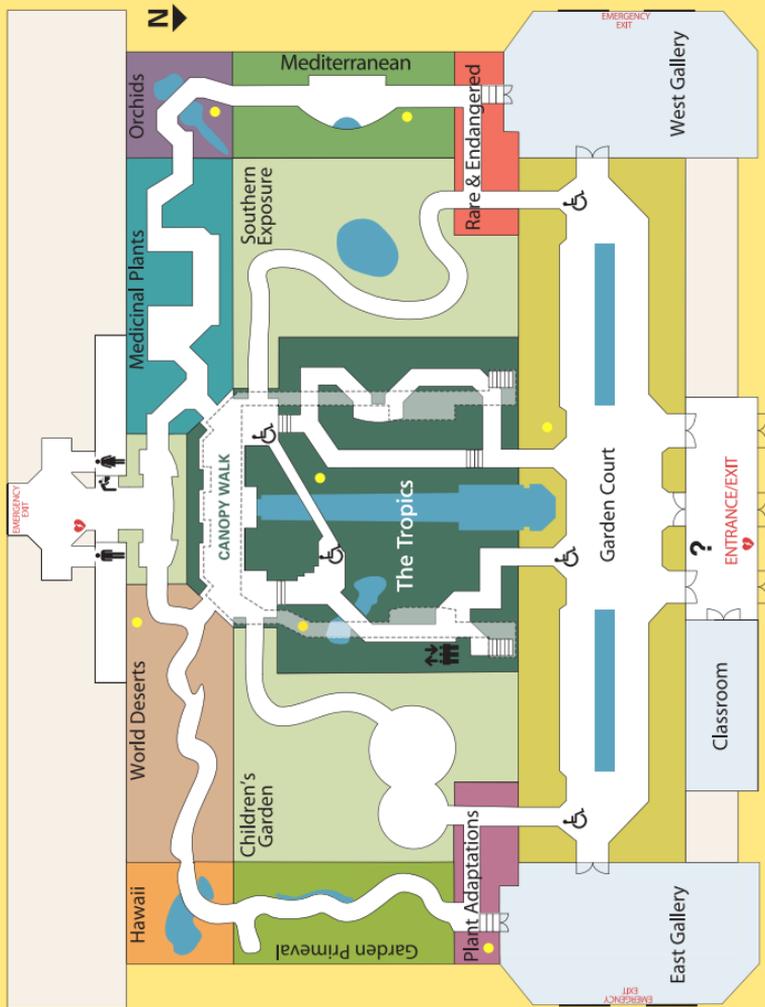


Find a plant with an interesting looking part and draw it below. What do you think this part does for the plant?

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