



GO

At the San Marcos Discovery Center, it is time to discover something new and unexpected. Trails and trees. Gardens and bees. A pollinator patch. Fish ponds and turtle tanks. You will find all of these at the San Marcos Discovery Center.



KNOW

Terrific Turtles

- Turtles are among the oldest kinds of animals. These slow-moving creatures lived in the time of dinosaurs.
- Why does a turtle move slowly? Because it doesn't need to run! A turtle carries its snug safe house wherever it goes.
- A turtle's shell protects it from predators. The shell can be hard or soft.
- Turtles are **vertebrates**; they have a backbone. Turtles are reptiles; they breathe air and have scaly skin.
- Turtles are cold-blooded. They use the environment to keep their body at the right temperature. They hang out on rocks or logs to warm in the sun. They cool off in the water.
- How many turtles can you find? _____

GROW



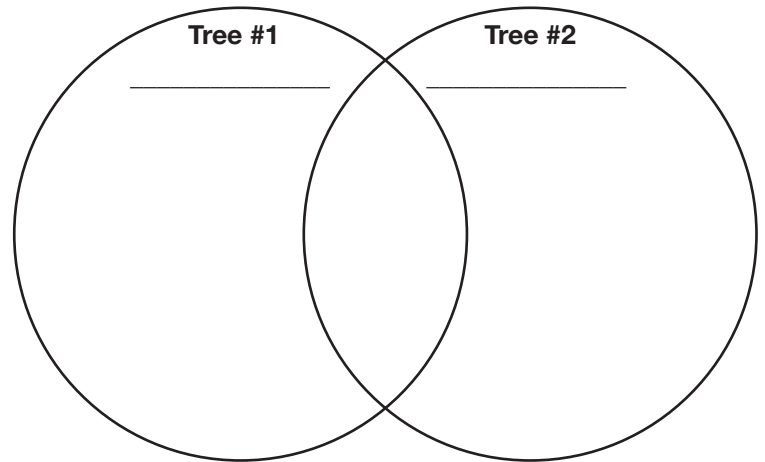
Observe the Trees

An **arboretum** is a place for the study, display, and preservation of trees.

Compare and contrast two different types of trees.

- Notice the size and the shape of the trees.
- Look at the branches and leaves.
- Are there flowers, fruit, or seeds?
- What do the trees have in common?
- How are they different?

Complete the Venn diagram by listing differences and similarities of the trees.



Are You Ready to Go Herping?

Herps—Reptiles and amphibians are also known as herps. That's short for herptiles. A **herpetologist** is a person who studies reptiles and amphibians.

Herping is the fun activity of looking for **reptiles** (lizards, snakes, ...) and **amphibians** (frogs, salamanders, ...)



