Stop 161 Kid’s Tour – Sensitive Plant, Warm Temperate House

Normally we don’t encourage visitors to touch the plants, but go ahead… and GENTLY touch the fern-like leaves on this one. Just watch out for the thorny stems. (pause) Did you see what happened!! The leaves folded up when it felt your fingers. That’s why it’s called the “Sensitive Plant,” it’s known by scientists as *Mimosa pudica*. Wonder why it does this? Probably to defend itself from getting eaten by plant-munching critters! But after a minute or two, the sensitive plant will return to normal… until the next time it gets bothered!