

Botanical Encounters

AN INTERACTIVE & VIRTUAL TOUR

School Programs & Partnerships



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Welcome to the Botanical Encounters virtual tour!

In this interactive lesson, you'll explore different gardens at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Each slide has a plant, tree, or flower to discover, along with questions, activities, and links to additional information.

But first, let's talk about collecting. Do you like to collect? If so, what do you collect? Rocks? Pokémon cards? Legos?

Henry and Arabella Huntington loved to collect art, books, and plants. On this tour, we dive into the botanical collection.

Let's go exploring!



Botanical Vocabulary

Click on a vocabulary word to start your tour!

Each word relates to a plant, flower, or tree in the Botanical Gardens.

Barrel
Cactus

Bonsai

Corpse
Flower

Cycad

Rose

Camellia

Once you have explored all six cards, click here!

Bonsai

Japanese Garden

- Bonsai (pronounced “BONE-sigh”) is a horticultural art form that started in China and then became popular in Japan.
- The Japanese word *bonsai* translates as “tree in a pot.” Bonsai are living plants, typically a tree, shrub, or woody herb grown in a pot and trained to develop characteristics found in a very old tree.
- The Huntington has more than 400 bonsai trees in its collection.
- Some of the bonsai at The Huntington were grown using plant material that was more than 1,000 years old!

Activity

Write a four-line poem about one of the bonsai trees. Think about color, shape, line, and texture.

Click on these links to explore more

[Bonsai Collection](#)

[A Prairie Boy's Passion for Bonsai](#)

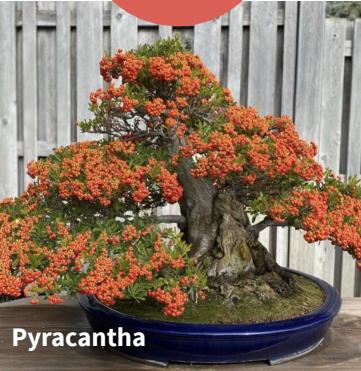
[“Lifelines/Timelines” exhibition](#)



Olive tree



Crabapple



Pyracantha



Bald Cypress

Pick
Another

Camellia sasanqua
'Cleopatra White'

Camellia

North Vista Camellia Garden

- There are more than 80 species of camellias at The Huntington.
- Camellias come in many different colors: white, purple, pink and red. Do you have a favorite one?
- Camellias are originally from East Asia, which includes China and Japan. Launch Google Earth and find China and Japan on a map to see where these flowers first grew.

Activity

Design your own camellia by making an origami camellia flower. Watch the video for step-by-step instructions. All you will need is two pieces of paper.

Click on these links to explore more

Camellia Garden

Take the Camellia Garden Virtual Tour



Pick
Another



Camellia japonica 'Finlandia'



Camellia hiemalis 'Kanjiro'

Rose

Rose Garden

- The Rose Garden was created in 1908 for Henry and Arabella Huntington because roses were one of Arabella's favorite flowers. Do you have a favorite flower?
- The Huntington's float in the 2020 Rose Parade® showed giant flowers made to look like the 'Huntington's 100th' rose. Can you find the roses? Bonus: Can you find the barrel cactuses?
- There are roughly 1,200 different varieties of roses in the Rose Garden.

Activity

New roses can be made by hybridizing (or crossing) two roses together. The process takes many years! The 'Huntington's 100th' rose was made by crossing the 'Stormy Weather' rose and the 'Julia Child' rose to create a brand-new rose that had some of the best qualities of both its parents. Take the Rose Garden Virtual Tour and find two roses you would like to combine to make a new rose. Use colored pencils, crayons, or markers to design your new rose. Be sure to give your new creation a name!

Click on these links to explore more

Rose Garden

How 'Huntington's 100th' Came to Be

Travel back in time to see early photos of the Rose Garden

"A Walk Through the Rose Garden" Video

'Ebb Tide'



'Neil Diamond'



Pick
Another

'Huntington's 100th'



Barrel Cactus

Desert Garden

- The Desert Garden was one of the first gardens created at The Huntington, more than 100 years ago. It was designed by William Hertrich, Mr. Huntington's ranch superintendent. [Travel back in time to see early photos of the Desert Garden.](#)
- Plants found in the Desert Garden have succulent, water-storing stems, leaves, or roots. They are adapted to survive heat and long periods without rain.
- See the vertical lines with spines on the cactus pictured at right? These are called ribs. These ribs can expand to help the barrel cactus store water.
- The largest barrel cactuses in the garden can weigh hundreds of pounds, and some are more than 85 years old!

Activity

Adaptation art: Think of a plant that grows in the desert and make an adaptation for the plant. Maybe it changes color for camouflage? Maybe it has built-in sunglasses? It is up to you. Use colored pencils, crayons, or markers to draw your desert plant. Think about how your adaptation will be helpful for the plant and its ecosystem.

[Click on this link to explore more](#)

[Desert Garden](#)



Pick
Another

Corpse Flower
(Amorphophallus titanum)

Pick
Another

Corpse Flower

The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science

- The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science is a giant greenhouse with a plant lab and three different plant habitats: a lowland tropical rainforest, a cloud forest, and a carnivorous plant bog.
- “Corpse Flowers” are rare plants found in tropical rainforests. The plants got their nickname because they smell like rotting meat when they bloom. The Huntington has many of these plants in its collections.
- Corpse Flowers don’t bloom very often, so it’s a special event when they do. The giant outer sheath (a modified leaf called a “spathe”) will only be open for two to three days before closing back up. [Watch](#) the Corpse Flower bloom!

Activity

The Corpse Flower is just one of many unusual plants found in the Conservatory. Explore other plants and try one of the activities in the [Conservatory online](#).

Click on these links to explore more

[Corpse Flower](#)

[The “Plants are Up to Something” Virtual Tour](#)

[The Secret Life of Stinky](#)

[The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science](#)



Cycad

Cycad Walk

- Cycads are very old plants; fossils show that they grew on Earth 250 million years ago. Guess what? That means cycads were alive during the time of dinosaurs! When dinosaurs became extinct, cycads continued to live and grow.
- Cycads used to be found all over the world. Now there are not very many left, and they are hard to find in the wild. But you can find cycads all over The Huntington: in the Palm Garden, Jungle Garden, Australian Garden, Japanese Garden, and many other locations.
- The cycad's native environment is in the tropics. Imagine you are exploring for cycads in the tropics. What might the weather feel like?
- Cycads don't have flowers; their pollen and seeds are produced in cones that can be really big and colorful.

Activity

Take the [Dinosaur Plants Virtual Tour](#). Pick your favorite plant and write a comic strip. Take a piece of paper and draw six boxes. In each box draw a scene with your characters; the characters could be a dinosaur, a cycad, or even you. Next, add speech bubbles and write text for your characters to tell your story.

Click on these links to explore more

[Jungle Garden](#)

[Cycad Collection](#)

Pick
Another



Now that you have explored six different gardens, do you have a favorite?
Which one? Why do you like the one you chose best?

Was there one you really didn't like? Which one?
Why didn't you like that one?

Do you have a favorite plant, flower, or tree?
Cycad? Camellia? Bonsai?

What is one thing you learned today?

Thank you for coming on this journey with us!
We would love to see the art you made!
#TheHAtHome