
Home School Tour Kit

Learning Through the Collections

School Programs and Partnerships



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Welcome to The Huntington!

Do you like to collect? If so, what do you collect? Rocks? Pokémon cards? Legos? Henry and Arabella Huntington were passionate collectors of art, books, and plants. In 1919 they gave their collection to the public for everyone to learn from and enjoy. In this self-guided, interactive tour, you will have the chance to explore The Huntington's diverse collections. You will discover some of the objects Henry collected, journey through Arabella's favorite garden, and learn how The Huntington's collections have continued to grow since 1919.

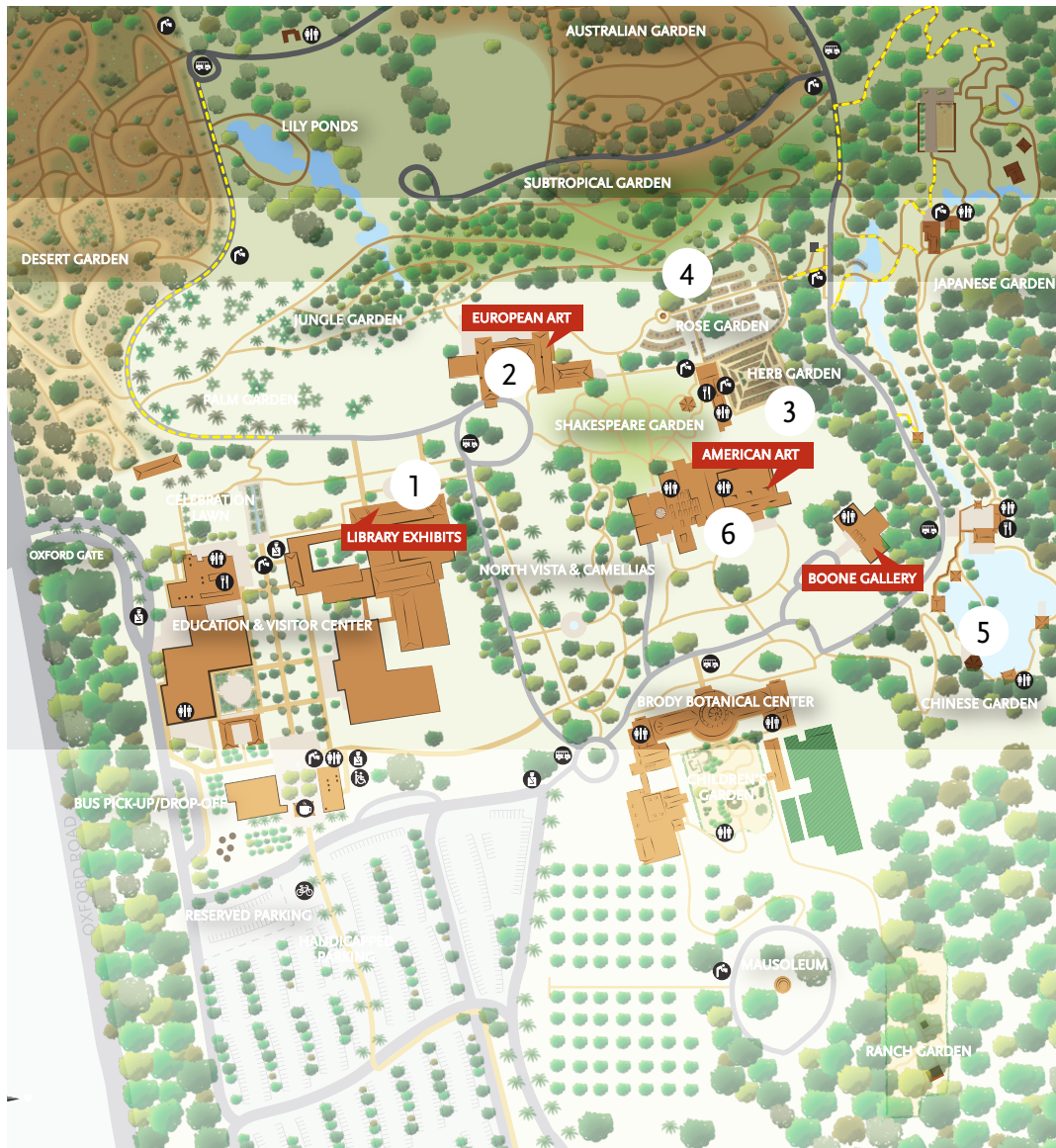
Now it's time to go exploring!

What is in this kit?

- School Programs booklet for each student
- Pencils (10) (Please do not use pens)
- Viewfinders (5)
- Color paddles (5)
- Magnifying glasses (5)
- Paintbrush (1)
- Roller (1)
- Vellum (1)
- Painted canvas (1)
- 2-minute sand timer (1)
- Color wheel (1)
- X-Ray image of *The Blue Boy* (1)
- Question spinner (1)

When you see the phrase ***"USE THIS!"*** in the lesson, it's time to use one of these items.

At the end of your visit, you may keep the School Programs booklets. Please return everything else to the Admission window. Thank you!



Route

- ① Library Exhibition Hall
- ② Huntington Art Gallery
- ③ Herb Garden
- ④ Rose Garden
- ⑤ Chinese Garden
- ⑥ Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art

Art Vocabulary

Abstract art—A work of art that may not have a clear subject or resemble something seen in nature and is created using shapes, color, and texture

Canvas—A heavy cloth surface on which an artist paints

Portrait—A likeness of a person

Sculpture—A three-dimensional work of art, such as a statue

Botanical Vocabulary

Flower—The often colorful part of a plant that produces seeds

Fruit—The seed-bearing part of a plant; often edible

Herb—A non-woody plant valued for its medicinal or flavoring qualities

Conservation Vocabulary

Conservation—Work that preserves art, documents, artifacts and other important cultural items for the future and includes examination, documentation, treatment, and preventative care

Conservator—A professional who uses specialized education, knowledge, and training to preserve works of art and other items of cultural interest

Library Vocabulary

Ephemera—Collectible items that were originally thought to only have short-term usefulness, including ticket stubs, theater programs, and posters

Manuscript—A letter, document, or other composition written by hand (as opposed to a work produced in multiple copies by a printing press)

Illuminated manuscript—A manuscript that has been decorated with colored pigments and sometimes gold leaf, a common practice for luxury books produced during the Middle Ages

Parchment—The skin of an animal (sheep, rabbit, goat) that has been cleaned, scraped, stretched, and prepared for use as a writing surface

Stop 1: Library Exhibition Hall

Take a few minutes and walk through the Library Exhibition Hall. Find a book, manuscript, or other object that interests you. Spend a few minutes looking at the item you chose and read the label. Why did you choose this object? The second page in your School Programs booklet explains how to read a label.

Discussion Questions

- What do you see?
- Why do you think museums have labels?
- What is written on the label? What information would you like to see on a label?

Henry E. Huntington was an avid book and manuscript collector. The Library collection spans from the 11th century to the present and includes such items as maps, architectural drawings, medieval manuscripts, photographs, and letters written by important historical figures including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Albert Einstein. The collection has 8 million manuscripts, 440,000 rare books, 454,000 reference books, 900,000 prints and ephemera, 800,000 photos, and it continues to grow.

Activity: It's your turn! On the back page in your Schools Programs booklet, write a label for something you collect or for an object you see in the Library.

Now, head to the Trustee's Room in the Library. Explore the digital display on the table, the bookmaking items, and the materials used to take care of the collection.

Some of the manuscripts on view in the library are made of parchment. While you can't touch the objects on view, you can touch this piece of parchment. What does it feel like? Does this feel like paper you use today? How is it different or the same?

USE THIS! Piece of parchment

Discussion Questions

- What is conservation? What is a conservator?
- Why do you think it is important to conserve the collection?
- How does the Library help protect the objects? Hint: Look around and think about room temperature and lighting/windows.

Conclusion

- Why are wall labels used? Do you think they are important?
- What do you think it would be like to be a conservator?
- Do you have a collection? If so, how do you organize and care for your collection?

Stop 2: Huntington Art Gallery

The Huntington Art Gallery is the former home of Henry and Arabella Huntington. Designed by Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey, the building's architectural features include French, Spanish, Mediterranean, and Italian influences. Today, The Huntington Art Gallery houses approximately 1,200 works of art dating from the 15th century to the present.

When you enter the Huntington Art Gallery, be on the lookout for two portraits. Explore the portraits virtually on the Art Collections Catalog by scanning the QR Codes. One is of Henry Huntington, and the other is of Arabella Huntington. What information about Henry and Arabella can you uncover based upon their portraits? If you could ask Henry and Arabella one question, each, what would you ask?



Oswald Hornby Joseph Birley, *Henry Edwards Huntington*, 1924, oil on canvas.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.



Oswald Hornby Joseph Birley, *Arabella (Yarrington) Huntington*, 1924, oil on canvas.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Now, head to the Thornton Portrait Gallery to see the Grand Manner portraits. Look for a young boy dressed in blue. This is *The Blue Boy*, painted by Thomas Gainsborough in 1770. Spend two minutes quietly looking at this painting.

USE THIS! Timer



Thomas Gainsborough, *The Blue Boy*, 1770, oil on canvas.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Henry Huntington purchased *The Blue Boy* in 1921 and moved it from England to The Huntington. Though it is uncertain who the boy is, his clothing is very striking. In fact, Gainsborough used four different blue pigments (a powdered material that becomes paint when mixed with oil, water, or another fluid). The four pigments are azurite, smalt, ultramarine, and Prussian blue.

While you can't touch *The Blue Boy*, you can get a sense of what the painting might feel like by touching the painted canvas and the paintbrush found in your kit. What type of paintbrushes do you think Gainsborough used? Big ones? Small ones?

USE THIS! Painted canvas and paintbrush

Have you ever had an X-ray for a broken bone or at the dentist? Paintings also can get X-rays to reveal details beneath the surface of the paint. When this painting was X-rayed, a dog and a part of a man's head were revealed. The head shows that Gainsborough had begun an earlier portrait and re-used the canvas to save materials. He originally included a dog but then decided to paint over the animal. Why do you think he did this?

USE THIS! X-ray image

Strike a pose! Try standing like the boy. Would you stand like this for your portrait? How would you pose? The boy in the painting is holding a hat and a cape. What objects would you hold? What would you want to wear? Use your School Programs booklet to sketch a portrait of a friend, family member, or your own self-portrait.

The painting has recently undergone technical examination and restoration. For most of the 100 years The Huntington has been open to the public, *The Blue Boy* has been on display. After such a long time, it needed conservation treatment.



For more information and videos about
"Project Blue Boy," scan the QR code.

Stops 3 & 4: Herb Garden & Rose Garden

Off to the gardens! To the side of the Huntington Art Gallery lie the Herb Garden and the Rose Garden. Arabella loved fresh cut flowers, and roses were some of her favorites. Blooms from the Rose Garden were used for floral arrangements in her house.

Now it is time to collect information! Below are some clues. It is your job as the collector to find the answers in these two gardens. You can write your answers in your School Programs booklet or tell them to a partner.

USE THIS! Magnifying glass

This will help you look closely at the flowers, herbs, and sculptures you are exploring.

1. The Huntington has a special rose for the Centennial year. It is a hybrid rose made by crossing the 'Julia Child' and 'Stormy Weather' roses. The name of this newly created rose is _____.

Hint: Try looking for this rose near the Huntington Art Gallery.



Scan the QR Code for more information on this special rose.

BONUS: Can you guess how many different varieties of roses there are in the Rose Garden? (Hint: it is a big number!)

2. Find an 18th century sculpture. The name of this work of art is _____. Act it out!

You are walking through the gardens and meet this statue. Use your imagination to describe why she's there, what she's doing, and what she's feeling.

3. Find a rose named after a person. _____.

4. The Herb Garden is designed to showcase herbs in four different categories. Can you discover the categories?

_____, _____, _____,

_____. Why do you think the garden was designed this way?

5. Can you find the plant sugar comes from? The name of the plant is _____.

Sketch what you see in your School Programs booklet.

6. Find a plant that can give you a caffeine buzz. Hint: It is a morning drink and can be found on the outer walkway near the Tea Room. _____.

7. Find an herb or plant you might eat. _____.

Answer Key

1. 'Huntington's 100th'
2. *L'Amour Captif de la Jeunesse (Love, Captive of Youth)*—After Simon-Louis Boizot

Bonus: 1,200 different varieties

3. There are many choices! Here are a few: Neil Diamond, Julia Child, Jiminy Cricket, Joan D'Arc, Nancy Reagan, John F. Kennedy
4. Medicinal, perfume, culinary (cooking), and dye and fiber
5. Purple sugarcane
6. Coffee
7. There are many choices! Here are a few: grapes, artichokes, lemon, mint, rosemary, sage

Conclusion

- Did you have a favorite garden? If so, which one? Why is it your favorite?
- How would you design a garden? What would you grow?
- The gardens are a living collection. What do you think this means?

Stop 5: Chinese Garden

Onward to the Chinese Garden (also known as the Garden of Flowing Fragrance, Liu Fang Yuan 流芳園). This garden was created by architects and artisans from Suzhou, China, and builders and gardeners from California. There are four main elements of a traditional Chinese garden: rocks, water, plants, and architecture. Can you find all four?

Poetry is an important part of the Chinese Garden. Chinese couplets (two lines of poetry with the same number of characters and a similar structure) can be found on various pavilions and buildings in the garden.

Here are two examples:

1. Waveless Boat—Sailing toward autumnal light, we are first to catch the moon; listening to vernal rain, we make no waves.
延到秋光先得月 聽殘春雨不生波
2. Freshwater Pavilion—In cold water issued from small rocks, the early flavors linger; from new tea steeped in a red clay pot, spring blossoms waft. 小石冷泉留早味 紫泥新品泛春華

Writing Chinese couplets:

- Chinese couplets consist of two lines of poetry that have the same number of characters and a similar structure.
- Chinese couplets often focus on pairs of contrasting or complimentary objects, traits or feelings. If the first line talks about rocks, the second line may talk about clouds. Other pairs could be: summer and winter, blue and green, swimming and floating, sun and moon, sadness and joy, or calm and storm.
- In Chinese couplets, parts of speech generally appear in each line in the same order. For example, a noun in the first line matches up to a noun in the second line.

Couplet Example

1st Line: Flowing water can be listened to like the tune of a zither;
2nd Line: fine mountains should be viewed as an image in a painting.

Write the Second Line

- Read each line more than once to feel the mood.
- Create your own second line by matching each underlined word with a parallel word to balance the poem.

1st Line: Unbending bamboo grows in the golden sunshine;

2nd Line: _____

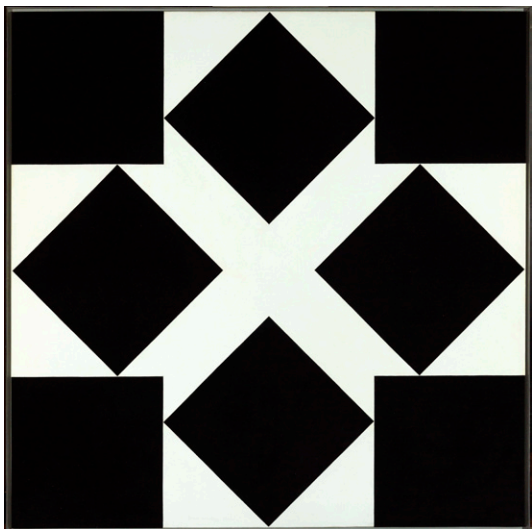
1st Line: Butterfly wings flutter in the sky among bright water lilies;

2nd Line: _____

If you feel inspired, write your own couplet!

Stop 6: Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art

Next up is the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art. Find the painting “*See saw*,” by Frederick Hammersley.



Frederick Hammersley, *See saw*, 1966, oil on linen.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

USE THIS! Timer. Take 2 minutes to quietly look at the painting. Look from left to right, from top to bottom. You can move positions to look from different perspectives.

USE THIS! Use your **viewfinder** to focus on a specific section of the painting.

- What do you see when you look at this painting?
- How would you categorize this piece? Portrait? Landscape? Abstract? Why?
- Do you think there is more white or more black in this painting? What makes you think that?

USE THIS! Question Spinner. Spin the arrow. Answer the question it lands on.

See saw was painted by American artist Frederick Hammersley in 1966 and is an example of abstract art. While it may appear to just be black squares on a white square, Hammersley used geometry and math to make a plan before he started painting. Hammersley would sketch ideas in his notebook, and his sketches were usually the size of a stamp. Then he would decide which one he wanted to make larger and paint. Sometimes he would add color, sometimes he did not. Do you like that he kept this one in black and white? Or do you wish he added color? Why?



This is roughly the size of a stamp.
This is the size of Hammersley's
sketches in his notebook.



Scan the QR code to see his artistic
process for *See saw*.

Conclusion

- *See saw* was not collected by Henry and Arabella Huntington. It was purchased by The Huntington in 2013. What do you think Henry and Arabella would have thought of this work of art? (Remember, Henry Huntington bought *The Blue Boy*).
- What was your favorite place you visited today? Why? What was your least favorite? Why?
- What is one thing you learned today?



Materials:

- 1 Paper clip
- 1 Thumb tack (be careful with the pointy edge!)
- Scissors
- Tape

Steps:

1. With your scissors, cut out the arrow and circle.
2. Next, unwrap one side of your paperclip. You will have one straight edge and a loop at the other end.
3. Tape the base of your arrow to the straight edge of the paper clip.
4. Lay your paperclip on top of the circle, with the loop in the center of the circle.
5. Push in the thumb tack in the middle of the paper clip loop.
6. Spin the arrow and see where it lands!