



## Information for Teachers Japanese Garden

We are pleased that you will be bringing your students to the Huntington botanical program in the Japanese Garden. In our method of touring, the docent will engage your students in a discussion about the Japanese Garden. The lesson introduces traditional Japanese Gardens as creative art forms and contrasts them with traditional European style gardens. Your students will visit an elegant 19th century Japanese home and Zen Garden. They will examine garden sculpture and be introduced to plants native to Japan. The lesson provides insight into historical Japanese customs and learning about things once used and enjoyed in everyday life in Japan.

**PREPARATION:** To prepare your students for their visit to the Huntington, please review the list of vocabulary words related to their tour Huntington lesson plans developed as pre and post visit activities may be accessed on our website at [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org).

**PROCEDURE:** The tour will take approximately one and a half hours. You will be met at your bus by a staff member who will give you instructions for the morning. Please have each student wear a name tag, so the docents may address each one personally.

**IN CASE OF RAIN:** We run our programs rain or shine and only cancel programs when torrential rain makes touring unsafe. We will notify you as soon as possible if we decide to cancel a garden program due to rain..

We sincerely hope that this program will meet your objectives, and that it will be both fun and educational for your students.

If you have any questions please call the Education Department at 626-405-2272.

## JAPANESE GARDEN VOCABULARY LIST

Bonsai	Trees pruned in special styles to look old, maintained very carefully so they can grow in very shallow pots.
Buddhism	An eastern religion based on the teachings of Buddha, the founder who lived in India 500 years BC. There are two statues of Buddha in the garden.
Drum Bridge	A rounded bridge which, when reflected in the pond, looks like a drum.
Gong	A Buddhist temple bell that rings by means of a special bar on the side of the gong.
Japanese Traditional House	This type of house is raised off the ground and is made of natural materials. No shoes are allowed in the house. The side panels slide open to view the garden.
Koi	Colorful, playful fish which, when reflected in the pond, looks like a drum.
Pagoda	Stone pillars that are associated with Buddhism. The openings are used to hold candles which are lit at night.
Stone Lantern	Stone lanterns decorate a Japanese garden, are next to paths and used to light the way at night. They come in many different styles.
Stroll Garden	Another style of Japanese garden that has paths that lead the visitor to many changing views as he/she moves through the garden. For example, rounding the corner, the visitor suddenly sees a waterfall.

Symbolism

Symbols give meaning to a object, plant, or animal. For example, the two upright stones in the Zen Garden could symbolize a man and a woman standing on the shore of a river.

Viewing Stones  
(Suiseki)

Stones selected for their beauty and usually look like a mountain or have a very special shape.

Zen Garden

A style of Japanese garden design that is very simple, usually next to a Buddhist temple, and consisting of raked gravel in a pattern to look like flowing water, rocks that look like islands or mountains, and some plants.

