

Botanical Encounters

Level 1

AN INTERACTIVE & VIRTUAL TOUR

Huntington Education



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Welcome to the Botanical Encounters Level 1 virtual tour!

Each slide features a plant, tree, or flower with questions, activities, and links to additional information.

Henry and Arabella Huntington loved to collect art, books, and plants. What do you like to collect? Rocks? Pokémon cards? Legos?

In this interactive journey we'll dive further 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.

Aloe

**Cacao
Pods**

Eucalyptus

Pineapple

Poppy

**Tropical
Pitcher
Plant**

Once you have explored all six cards, [click here!](#)

Pineapple

The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science

- Have you ever thought about how a pineapple grows? You might think pineapples grow on trees, but they grow on a type of plant known as a bromeliad.
- Pineapples grow in warm, tropical environments. The pineapples growing in the Conservatory at The Huntington are from Brazil, which is a country in South America.
- Did you know that all you need in order to grow a pineapple is the top of a pineapple (the green part), a pot, soil, sunshine, and water? You can plant the green top of the pineapple in potting mix about 1 inch deep (leaving a little bit of the top sticking out). If you make sure it has plenty of warmth, water, and sunshine, a pineapple should grow!

Activity

Look closely at this photograph of a pineapple for 30 seconds. Using whatever art-making materials you have, do a close-looking sketch. Include lines, shapes, colors, and textures in your drawing.

Click on this link to explore more

[See a drawing of a pineapple from the 1540s](#)

Pick
Another



Pineapple (*Ananas comosus*)

Tropical Pitcher Plant

The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science

- Pitcher plants at The Huntington can be found in the Carnivorous Plant Bog section of the Conservatory. A bog is a very wet and soggy environment, usually with lots of moss. In the United States, bogs can be found in South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Florida, and other states.
- “Carnivorous” means meat-eating. What types of meat do you think the pitcher plant eats? If you guessed bugs, then you are correct!
- Can you think of another plant that eats bugs? Stumped? It’s okay! [Read about](#) the Plant Bog to find out.
- How do you think pitcher plants catch bugs to eat? Act it out!

Activity

Design your own carnivorous plant! How will your plant look? What type of meat will it eat? What type of environment will it live in? Sketch out your creation and give your plant a name.

Click on these links to explore more

[Explore the Children’s Garden Online](#)

[Explore the Conservatory Online](#)

Pick
Another



Pitcher plant (*Sarracenia nepenthes*)

Eucalyptus

Australian Garden

- Eucalyptus trees are native to, or originally from, Australia. They are known for their characteristic tree bark that looks like it is peeling.
- Eucalyptus trees grow all over the world and in many different warm climates.
- One type of eucalyptus tree is the “Silver Princess” variety. Look closely: Do you see little silver dots on the tip of the flower? Why do you think this plant was given the name “Silver Princess”?
- Imagine you are touching this flower. What do you think it would feel like? Do you think the texture would be soft, fuzzy, rough, or prickly? Why do you think that?

Activity

Koalas, also from Australia, snack on leaves from eucalyptus trees! [Click here](#) to see a photo of a koala. Draw a scene with an animal (a koala or another animal, real or imaginary) interacting with a eucalyptus tree—for example, playing, eating, or climbing.

Click on this link to explore more

[Learn more about the Australian Garden](#)

Pick
Another



“Silver Princess” Eucalyptus, (*Eucalyptus caesia* ssp. *magna*)

Aloe

Desert Garden

- Aloe plants can be found in deserts, which are areas that receive less than 10 inches of rain a year. The name of this aloe plant is *Aloe* 'Jumbo Candy Corn'. Does this look like candy corn to you? Or does it look like another type of candy? What makes you think that?
- The green, sword-shaped leaves of *Aloe* 'Jumbo Candy Corn' are where water is stored. The orange, yellow, and red part of the plant are its flowers. Why do you think the flowers are warm colors like orange, yellow, and red?
- *Aloe* 'Jumbo Candy Corn' blooms in the spring, which is when lots of flowers bloom.
- If you could decide what colors the flowers would be, what colors would you choose? Why?

Activity

Imagine that this aloe plant came to life: What do you think would happen? Where would the plant go? Would it talk? Act out what you think the aloe plant would do and how it would move.

Click on these links to explore more

[Learn more about the Desert Garden](#)

[Watch a short video on another aloe plant](#)



Pick
Another

Poppy

Frances and Sidney Brody California Garden

- Did you know that every state in the United States has its own official flower? The California state flower is the poppy.
- This flower is native to the United States and Mexico. At The Huntington, it can be found in the California Garden.
- The most common color of the California poppy is orange. But guess what? It also comes in three other colors! Yellow, pink, and cream.
- Do you like that this flower is the California state flower? If you could pick a different flower for the state, which one would you pick? Why?

Activity

Have you ever wanted to create your own flower? Well, now's your chance! With a piece of paper and whatever art-making materials you have, design your own flower for the state of California. Think about the shape of the flower and what colors you will use for the petals.

Click on these links to explore more

[Learn more about the California Garden](#)

[View a California Poppy super bloom on Google Earth](#)



California poppies (*Eschscholtzia californica*)

Pick
Another

Cacao (Chocolate) Pods

The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science

- Do you like chocolate? Did you know that chocolate comes from cacao pods that grow on trees?
- Inside each pod are cacao beans (also known as cocoa beans). The pods are harvested from the tree and the beans inside are removed. Chocolate is then made from the beans.
- Cacao trees are native to the tropical regions of South America. Imagine being in the Andes Mountains in this tropical zone. How do you think the weather would feel? Hot? Cold? Muggy? Windy? What makes you think that?
- Imagine it is your job to pick the cacao pods and remove all the beans. Do you think this would be an easy job or a difficult one? Why?

Activity

There are chocolate chip cookies, chocolate ice cream, and chocolate brownies. Now, invent your own chocolate dish! Draw a picture of your creation.

Click on this link to explore more

[Explore The Conservatory](#)

Pick
Another



Cacao pods (*Theobroma cacao*),
from which chocolate is made

Now that you have explored six plants, flowers, and trees, do you have a favorite? Which one? Why do you like this one best?

Was there a plant, flower, or tree you really didn't like? Which one? Why don't you like it?

What is one thing you learned about plants today?

Check out what is blooming at The Huntington [here!](#)

Thank you for coming on this journey with us!

We would love to see the art and writing you made!

#LearnAtTheH