

The Same, *but Different*

Let's take a look
at two figs at
The Huntington



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Huntington Education

The Same, but Different

The goal of this activity is to provide an opportunity for elementary school students to evaluate two objects at The Huntington.

While the objects are the same—maybe through title, material, or function—they can also be different, perhaps through time period, culture, or form.

Here's the format:

- Look closely at both images
- Explore the terms
- Sort the terms on the Venn diagram
- Check your answers
- Learn about each object
- Questions and activity



Elizabeth Blackwell, *A curious herbal*, 1739.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.
[Zoom in to view this page in the book.](#)



Tiger Fig 'Panachée' (*Ficus carica* 'Panachée').
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.
[Zoom in to view this fig tree \(September, #31\).](#)

Review the terms that describe **both** images. Which facts go in the **same** area of the diagram? Which facts go in each **different** area of the diagram?

Figs

Grows at The Huntington

Blooms in September

Leaves

Green and yellow skin

Six figs

California Garden

Elizabeth Blackwell

Photograph

Teardrop shape

Fruit

Fruit cut open

Two figs

Illustration

Printed book

Same name as an animal

Mulberry family

Red inside

1739

The Huntington's collection

Time to sort!

A curious herbal

Tiger Fig 'Panachée'

Both

A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is light green and labeled 'A curious herbal'. The right circle is light pink and labeled 'Tiger Fig 'Panachée''. The overlapping area in the center is shaded light blue and labeled 'Both'. The diagram is set against a white background with a dark teal header bar on the left containing the text 'Time to sort!' and a light green bar below it.

Time to sort!

A curious herbal

Elizabeth Blackwell

Fruit cut open

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1739

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Learn about the figs



- Elizabeth Blackwell created 500 illustrations of different plants in her book *A curious herbal*. An herbal is a book that provides information about how plants can be used for natural medicine remedies and cooking. One of the illustrations in her book is a depiction of figs.
- In this engraving, Blackwell shows part of the fig tree with budding figs and big green leaves. On the top right she shows an image of a fig cut in half, allowing readers to see the inside of the fruit.
- This is an engraving. An engraving is a type of printmaking in which the image (in this case, figs) is carved into a metal plate.
- In this herbal, Blackwell published the engravings in installments, so only a few were released at a time until all 500 were published.
- Explore other illustrations in Blackwell's *A curious herbal*. Do you recognize any of the plants? Maybe pomegranates? Saffron? Basil? Do these illustrations look similar to the real-life plants? Do they look different? How?



- The Tiger Fig 'Panachée' grows in The Huntington's California Garden.
- Have you ever eaten a fig? If so, what did it taste like? If you haven't, imagine biting into a fig. How do you think it would taste? Sweet? Bitter? Sour?
- Figs are part of the mulberry family. Other fruits in this family include jackfruit, breadfruit, and mulberries.
- Figs are a type of fruit that grows in a teardrop shape with stripes in different shades of green. In addition to growing fruit, the fig tree also produces big, dark green leaves.
- Why do you think this fig is called the "Tiger Fig"? Does something about the fig remind you of a tiger?
- Figs are native to, or originally from, the Middle East and Asia. They grow well in environments that do not receive a lot of rain, such as Southern California.

Questions

- What did you notice about object 1, *A curious herbal*?
- What did you notice about object 2, Tiger Fig ‘Panachée’?
- How are they the same?
- How are they different?
- What did you learn?
- Which image of figs did you like best? Why?

Activity



Class Herbal

Materials:

- Paper
- Something to draw with (crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc.)
- A real sample or photograph of a plant, fruit (like a fig), flower, or herb

Time: 10 minutes

Steps:

1. Look closely at your plant, fruit, flower, or herb. Notice the colors, textures, lines, and details.
2. Then draw your plant, showing the details that you observed.
3. Write the name of the plant next to your drawing.
4. Help assemble everyone's drawings together to create a class herbal!

We would love to see your work!

Please take a picture of your Venn diagram.
Then post it on social media and tag The Huntington!

#LearnAtTheH