

Tatton Park Gardens: See the World

The Gardens at Tatton Park were created over two centuries by the various Egerton owners of this beautiful Estate. As the Estate developed and the house was remodelled, so the gardens grew, reflecting the changing fashions in garden design, and inspiration from gardens around the world. In the nineteenth century, famous designers such as, Lewis Wyatt, one of the architects of the house, and Joseph Paxton, designer of the Crystal Palace in London, added to the variety of the gardens. The Egertons liked to travel abroad and would bring ideas and specimens back with them for the gardeners to grow. William, 1st Baron Egerton, was a keen amateur botanist and Alan de Tatton, 3rd Baron Egerton, created the Japanese garden.

Here are a few fun activities for you to try in the classroom or at home

Activity 1: An English Rose Garden



Lady Anna Egerton, wife of the 3rd Baron Egerton, laid out this garden in 1913. There are many varieties of roses here and the perfume is intoxicating when they are all in bloom in the summer. Imagine sitting here reading a book or having some pencils and crayons to draw with and maybe dipping your toes in the pool to cool down when the sun gets too hot!

Draw a picture of your favourite rose or design your own. Make it into a greetings card and send it to someone you're thinking about, just to say Hello.

Have a go at pressing flowers. Ask an adult which flowers you can pick, and which heavy book you can use. Flatten each flower out between two pieces of paper then place them inside the book. The weight will eventually press the flowers as they dry out.

Activity 2: A Trip to Japan



This garden was created in 1910 near the Golden Brook right at the bottom of the Gardens at Tatton Park. Designs from the East were very fashionable at this time and many aristocratic families commissioned Japanese gardens for their estates. Japanese workmen were brought specially to Tatton to create the garden which includes a thatched tea house, miniature Mount Fuji, lanterns, zig-zag bridge and Shinto temple.

Make your own miniature garden on a tray or other flat surface. Collect natural materials such as moss, twigs, leaves or small pinecones, and use other things such as gravel, lollipop sticks, modelling clay or miniature toys. Think carefully about the layout.

Activity 3: Down Under



Plants that grow outdoors in other countries often won't survive in our climate, so ferneries and conservatories were built in which the climatic conditions could be controlled. The Fernery was designed by Joseph Paxton for William, 1st Baron Egerton, to house the New Zealand tree ferns brought back by his brother Charles from one of his voyages. Originally they were only 45cm high and grew very slowly. Now the ferns reach the roof - making the Fernery a bit like a jungle!

Write a story about a jungle where it is damp and warm and the plants reach up to the sky! Find some big leaves and stick or sew them together to make a sun hat.

Activity 4: The Grand Tour



In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries it was fashionable for young gentlemen to travel around Europe on a "Grand Tour". Italy was one of the countries they visited. Wilbraham, the 2nd Baron Egerton, commissioned Joseph Paxton to design a formal Italian terraced garden in front of the library on the south side of the house. The garden is symmetrical and includes steps, terraces with 'parterres', a fountain and a curved balustrade. There is a stunning view to the hills beyond.

Enjoy an Italian treat and make your own pizza, spreading a dough base with tomato paste, sliced tomatoes and cheese such as mozzarella. Sprinkle with a few herbs such as oregano or basil. Ask an adult to bake it for you. Delizioso!

