

Asian Gardens

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Objectives

MO GLEs for 6th-8th

Social Studies

- 5-B(b) Continents, civilization spread.
- 5-D(b) Human activities and Ecosystems.
- 6-F Cultural traditions and behavior.
- 6-I Changing ideas and concepts over time.

Science

- IV-1-B Population ecology
- IV-3-C Adaptations and survival.

Math

- 1-C Decomposing and composing numbers.

Communication Arts

- 1-I Cultural reflections in literature.
- 3-B Literary conventions in text.

Fine Arts

- VI-2-A Compare and contrast artistic expression within and between cultures.
- V-1-A Identify works of art from ...Asia.



About the Program

Bring your students to the Missouri Botanical Garden and explore the cultures of China and Japan. This class provides students with an opportunity to compare and contrast these fascinating similar but distinct cultures against the backdrop of our world-famous Asian gardens.

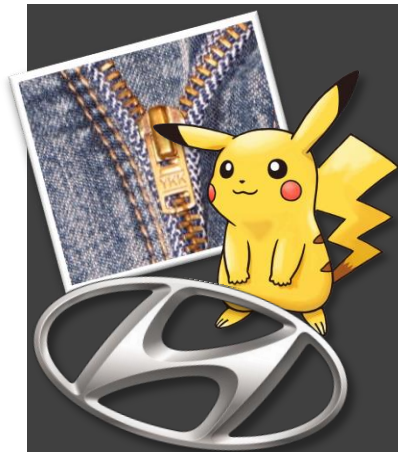
This class was designed with Middle Schools in mind, and so includes content that meets standards across five disciplines.

- **Compare and contrast the major elements of Chinese and Japanese culture**, including the underlying philosophies of Tao, Buddhism and Shinto.
- **Explore the ecology of Far East Asia** and how its plants and animals have influenced art, literature and culture.
- **Learn to operate an abacus** to compose and decompose numbers.
- **Examine Haiku and stories from the Buddhist tradition**, exploring how history and culture have shaped the literature of this region.
- **Create a Dry Garden** to take home.

Asia Around Us

Given the European roots that underlie much of our culture in the United States, some students find Asian cultures exotic and hard to understand. Invite them to look around their homes and communities and see how much of their daily lives has been influenced by or created in East Asia. Many of our electronics, automobiles, movies, toys, and foods were introduced to the United States from China, Japan, Korea and other east Asian countries. Even their zippers were most likely created in Japan. (The YKK you see on most zippers stands for Yoshida Kōgyō Kabushiki gaisha (Yoshida Manufacturing Corporation).

Consider inviting your students to go on a photography scavenger hunt to see how many products they can find that originated in these countries. If possible, research the geographical origins of these products and create a map showing where they came from.



This Program Features:

Seiwa-En and the Nanjing Friendship Garden

The Missouri Botanical Garden is proud to be home to two of the most famous Asian gardens in the world. Seiwa-En, dedicated in 1977, was designed by Professor Koichi Kawana, a famous Japanese landscape architect. Comprising 14 acres, Seiwa-en remains one of the largest Japanese gardens in North America.

St. Louis was also the first city in the United States to establish a sister relationship with a city in China. The Margaret Grigg Nanjing Friendship Garden, completed in 1996, was constructed in honor of this relationship and was designed to mimic scholars' gardens in the region of Nanjing.

Together these gardens provide an opportunity for students and visitors to compare and contrast the garden styles prevalent in these two major Asian cultures.



Other Places to Explore...

Make the most of your visit by taking your students to explore the following areas after your program:

1. **The Ottoman Garden** - Complete your visit to Asia with a stop in our Ottoman Garden. The Ottoman Empire now lives in the past, but its influence over garden style and design is still relevant and fascinating.
2. **The Victorian District** - Compare Asian garden design with that of traditional Western gardens from the Victorian era. What differences and similarities can you find?
3. **The Kemper Center** - St. Louis' climate has many commonalities with that of China and parts of Japan. How many of the plants shown here were cultivated from plants of Asian origins?

Logistics for Teachers

- ✿ Each Asian Gardens program lasts **2 hours**. A single class serves 60 students, but a rotation schedule that serves up to 120 students may be arranged, depending on staffing.
- ✿ Program fees include admission for up to six adults per 30 students. (Additional adults will be charged normal admission rates.) Please try to bring at least **one adult for every five students**.
- ✿ Currently there is no lunch space available on Garden grounds and picnicking is prohibited. Please schedule your visit and mealtimes accordingly.
- ✿ This program must be requested by calling 314-577-5185. Program availability is limited, so please book early!

For more information or to book this program, please visit <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/learn-discover/students-teachers/school-programs-and-field-trips> or call the School Programs office at 314-577-5185.



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

4344 Shaw Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63110 • (314) 577-5100 • www.mobot.org