

Huntington Library and Gardens Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to Huntington Library and Gardens! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet**

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

Language doesn't have to be written, though the library does have an amazing collection of the written word which you should take time to explore. Many cultures use art to express themselves and communicate to one another. Explore the museum's collection of art and sculpture.

- a. Choose one piece. Draw a picture of it and discuss or write about what you think it did or could communicate.
- b. Choose one piece. Write a short story with it as the centerpiece. What was the significance of the piece and how did it help people communicate?
- c. Compare and contrast two pieces. What do their similarities say about the similarities in the way people communicate? What are their differences and why are they important? What are ways or times that these pieces might have been used? Write a short essay with useful details.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

Nature uses math to design stunning and wonderful creations. Visit the gardens and learn more about the patterns and shapes of nature.

- a. Choose one plant to study closely. What shape does it have? Can you find any patterns? Draw a picture of the plant you chose, and use it to compare that plant to others in the garden.
- b. Go on a shape and pattern hunt. Draw and label the shapes you find. Also, draw a representation of at least two patterns you find.
- c. Use math to describe one part of the gardens, whether it be the layout, the plants, or anything else which interested you. Draw a diagram of it and label it with the math you see. Using estimates, include some basic calculations which would describe the visual qualities of your chosen part of the garden.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

Maintaining a large garden is a lot of work. Learn more about gardening, horticulture, and botany.

- a. Draw and/or write about one plant you found in the gardens. Include where it lives and what it needs to stay alive.
- b. Identify two different species of the same genus. You can use their latin names as clues. Write a short paragraph detailing their similarities and differences.
- c. Explore adaptation in different plants. Identify three different plants, where they are from, and how they are uniquely adapted to that place.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

The Huntington Library contains countless historical records. Explore the written history of the world.

- a. Choose one event from the history of the world and find a book which talks about or is about that event. Record the title and author of the book and briefly describe it or draw a picture about the event it details.
- b. Choose one period of time from the history of the world. Find books or manuscripts from that time period. Draw a timeline for the time period including important events, people, and where the books/manuscripts you found fit in.
- c. Draw a very basic timeline of world history. Choose five major periods of time and find a book or manuscript for each. Identify these works on your timeline and include a brief description of either their importance to that time or what they taught you about that time.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, smartphone (optional)

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

FUN FACTS

- The Huntington provides scholars with access to a world-class collection of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, paintings, prints, sculpture, and decorative arts, and hosts more than 750,000 visitors every year.
- The Huntington Library is one of the world's great independent research libraries in the fields of British and American history, literature, art, and the history of science, stretching from the 11th century to the present. Among the collections are 7 million manuscripts, 420,000 rare books, 275,000 reference books, and 1.3 million photographs, prints, and ephemera.
- The Library has first editions and manuscripts by authors such as William Blake, Jack London, Alexander Pope, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain, and William Wordsworth, and the literary archives of Hilary Mantel and Paul Theroux.
- Encompassing approximately 120 acres of the 207-acre grounds, the botanical gardens contain more than a dozen principal garden areas and over 15,000 different plant species.
- Forty gardeners, a curatorial staff of seven, and more than 100 volunteers maintain the botanical collections, provide educational programs for visitors, and propagate plants that are often included in special sales.
- Each year, some 1,700 scholars come from around the world to conduct advanced humanities research using The Huntington's collections. Through a rigorous peer-review program, the institution awards approximately 200 grants to scholars in the fields of history, literature, art, and the history of science.
- The original 96,000-square-foot Library building was designed by Hunt and Grey and built in 1919. It has had five subsequent additions, including the 90,000-square-foot Munger Research Center in 2004.

Huntington Library and Gardens

1. Draw a picture of your favorite part of your trip.



2. Describe your favorite part and why you love it.

3. What is one thing you learned about gardening?

4. Draw or describe a piece of art you saw and liked.



5. Describe or draw a book you saw and liked.



6. What are the differences between trees and bushes?

BONUS:

Library and Gardens Scavenger Hunt!

- Something with wings _____
- Something that is red _____
- Something that is really old _____
- Something that is blue _____
- Something with flowers _____
- Something historical _____
- Something made of wood _____
- Something round _____
- Something that tall _____
- Something that is very small _____
- Something important to society _____

