

# Secret Gardens

## Primary Student Guide

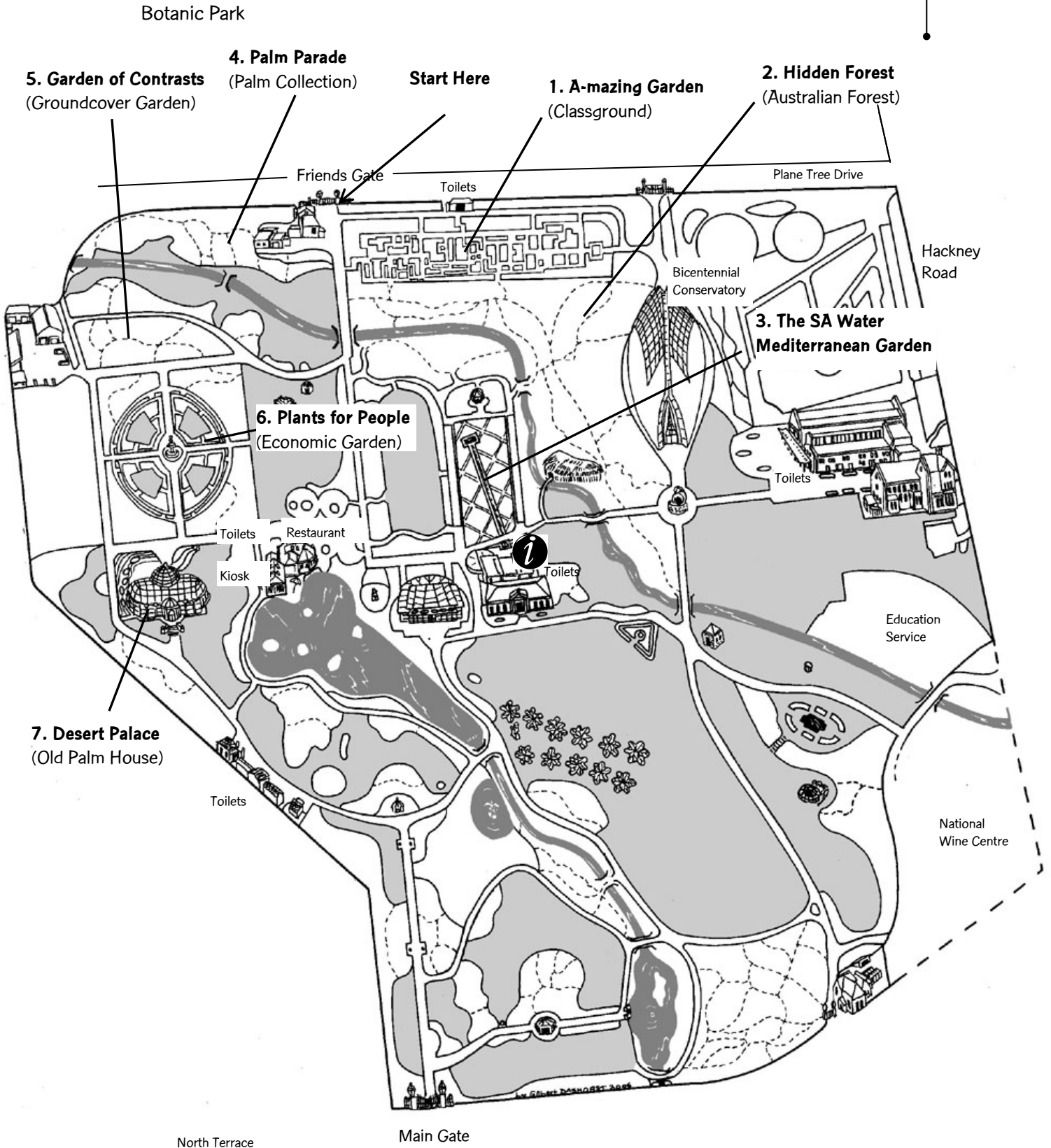
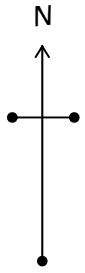


**"Where you tend a rose, my lad,  
A thistle cannot grow"**

**Education @ Adelaide Botanic Garden**

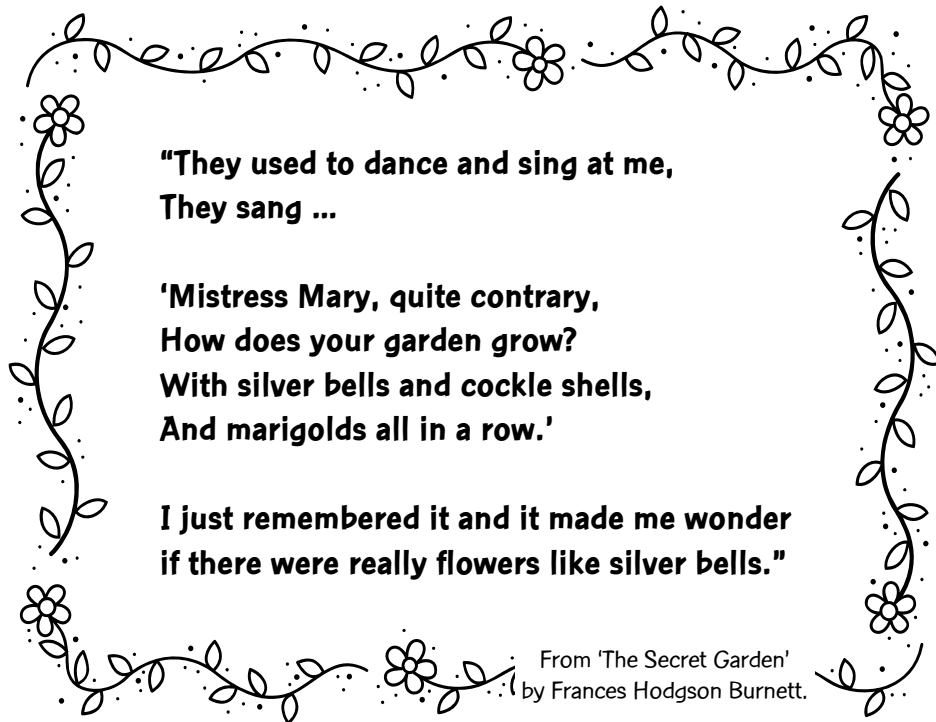
# Secret Gardens Trail

## Adelaide Botanic Garden



**Note: for most stations the official name is in brackets.**

# Secret Gardens



## Welcome...

Welcome to the Secret Gardens trail in the Adelaide Botanic Garden!

Along this trail you will discover the secret of creating gardens that relax and refresh you, that bring nature nearer and that help you to enjoy the beauty hidden in the wonderful world of plants. You may even be reminded of some of the memorable scenes created in the famous book 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett. We hope so.

Please enjoy walking the trail and discover some of the secrets to making beautiful and unusual gardens of your own.



Maybe you can even find those rarely seen flowers with silver bells. Who knows? Keep your eyes open.

**Look...Listen...Ask...Talk...Walk...Learn...Enjoy !**

**PS.** Make sure you know the **Garden Guidelines** before you go any further.

# 1. A-Mazing Garden

Be careful as you enter into this maze of mini garden beds bordered by brick paths. It's easy to get lost here amongst the bushes and shrubs but there is a pattern to all this plant madness. In fact this is a very ordered scientific garden with plants from all over the world that are laid out according to special rules.

The plant rules are:

- ✿ Plants in each bed are grouped into plant families.
- ✿ Older, simpler plant groups are at the start.
- ✿ More modern plant groups like the daisy family are down the far end.



## Find some plants to treasure...

1. Wander through and see how many plant treasures you can find listed in the table. When you find a treasure write the scientific name found on the plant label.

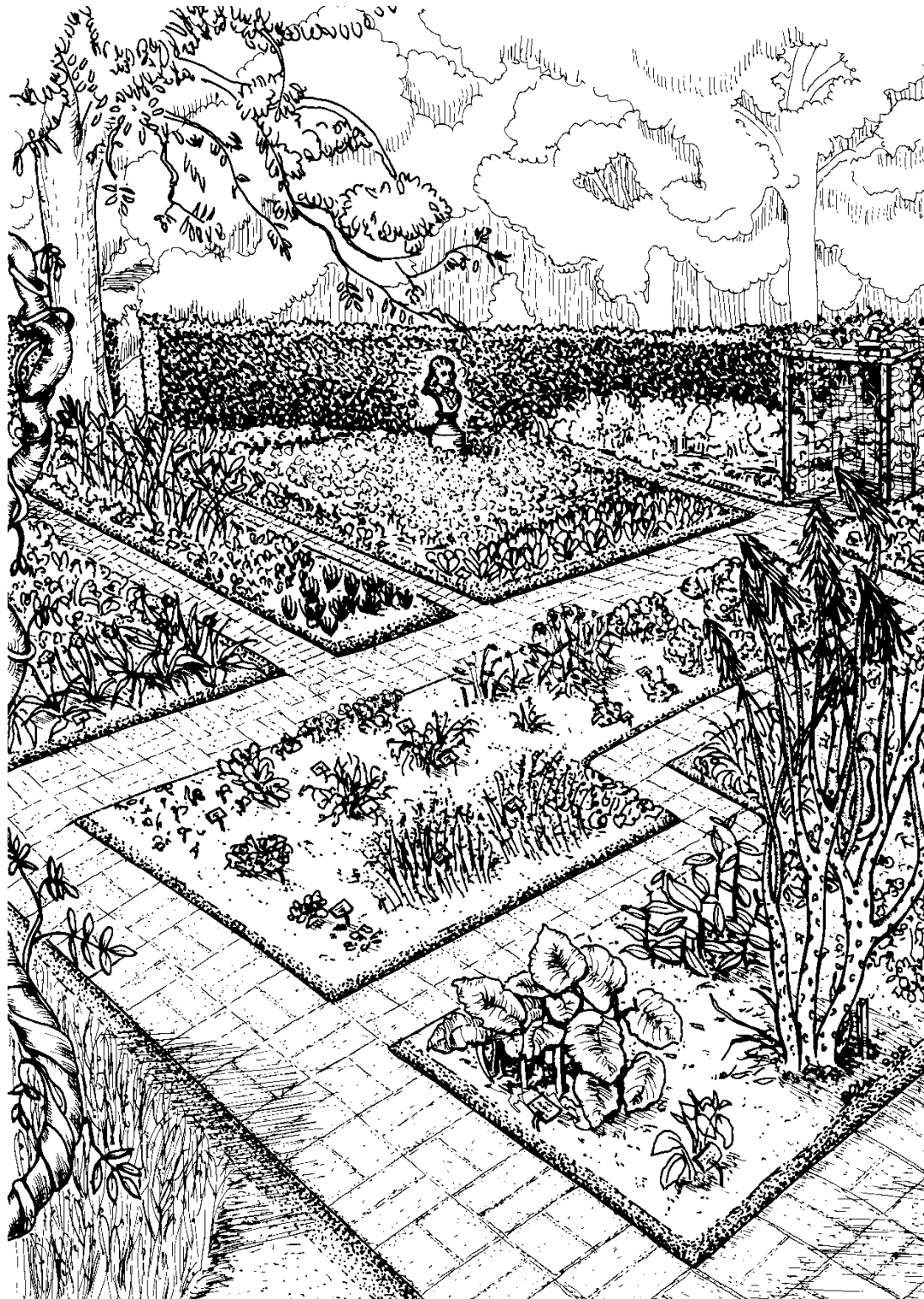
Find Me	Scientific Name
A flower with petals in 3's or 6's	
A plant growing in water	
Banana plants and their fruit in season	
A leaf with veins that do not cross over	
A leaf with veins that cross over	
A flower with petals in 4's or 5's	
A plant that moves when you touch it	
A plant with sharp spines	
A rough or furry leaf	
A plant with an interesting smell	
A yellow flower	
A daisy flower	
The bust of a botanist called Linnaeus	His full name is _____
A plant you knew before coming to the garden	

2. Plants in the same garden bed mostly have the **same / different** family name at the top of the plant label.  
This means the plants **are / are not** closely related to each other.

This garden rates a...

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10 (tops)

**"They're crocuses an' snowdrops, an' these here are narcissuses," turning to another patch, "an' here's daffydownilleys. Eh! They will be a sight."**



**Add some art:** Add a plant you like to the drawing.

**Hidden Object:** A keyhole

## 2. Hidden Forest

Its like being in the bush here, far away from cars, concrete and people. In reality you are just minutes away from the hustle and bustle of a busy city centre. The clever design of this forest garden takes you to back to nature.

Wander through the forest, listen for the bird songs, find some spider holes, and feel how the forest is alive with all sorts of plants and creatures waiting to be discovered but not disturbed.



### Find out how its done...

1. Complete the following:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| The plants are   | <b>all the same / different</b>  |
| Is it mainly   | <b>shady / full of light</b>     |
| There are lots of buildings  | <b>agree / disagree</b>          |
| The paths are  | <b>straight / winding</b>        |
| The paths are  | <b>soft / hard</b>               |
| The mulch is made of   | <b>pebbles / recycled plants</b> |
| The forest garden <b>is / is not</b> full of city noises   |                                  |
| The forest garden makes <u>me</u> feel <b>close / far away</b> from the city                             |                                  |
| The fallen logs make good _____  |                                  |
| Look at five plant labels. This forest is made up of plants that come from the states of _____ and _____ |                                  |



2. List evidence of animals in the forest:

- a.
- b.
- c.

3. List any animals you see:

- a.
- b.
- c.

**This garden rates a...**

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10 (tops)

**"...the bright-breasted little bird brought a look into her sour little face which was almost a smile."**



**Add some art:** Find a 'Bottle' tree. Add it to the forest drawing.

**Hidden Objects:** A robin

### 3. The SA Water Mediterranean Garden

Adelaide is a mediterranean city an ideal place for growing a mediterranean garden. Mediterranean plants have adapted to hot, dry summers and mild, winters making them the perfect choice for growing water-efficient gardens that are both beautiful and interesting.

The SA Water Mediterranean Garden helps us to better understand the importance of conserving water and learning to live with our environment. It fits well with the nearby Schomburgk Pavilion, a place where family and friends can sit and chat as they enjoy our magical mediterranean climate.



#### Find out how its done...

1. Use the signs around the garden to answer the following:

(a) Two ways plants save water are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

(b) What are the plant stories represented by the following symbols:



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



2. Use the colour coded plant labels to list the 5 mediterranean zones.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Complete the following to find out features of this garden:

There are **less than 100 / more than 100** different **waterwise** plants in this garden.

To save water this garden uses **mulch / drippers / leaking taps**

The Water Rill makes you feel **cool / hot**

The side paths are all **parallel / criss-crossed**

4. It feels the **same / different** here from the Hidden Forest garden because....

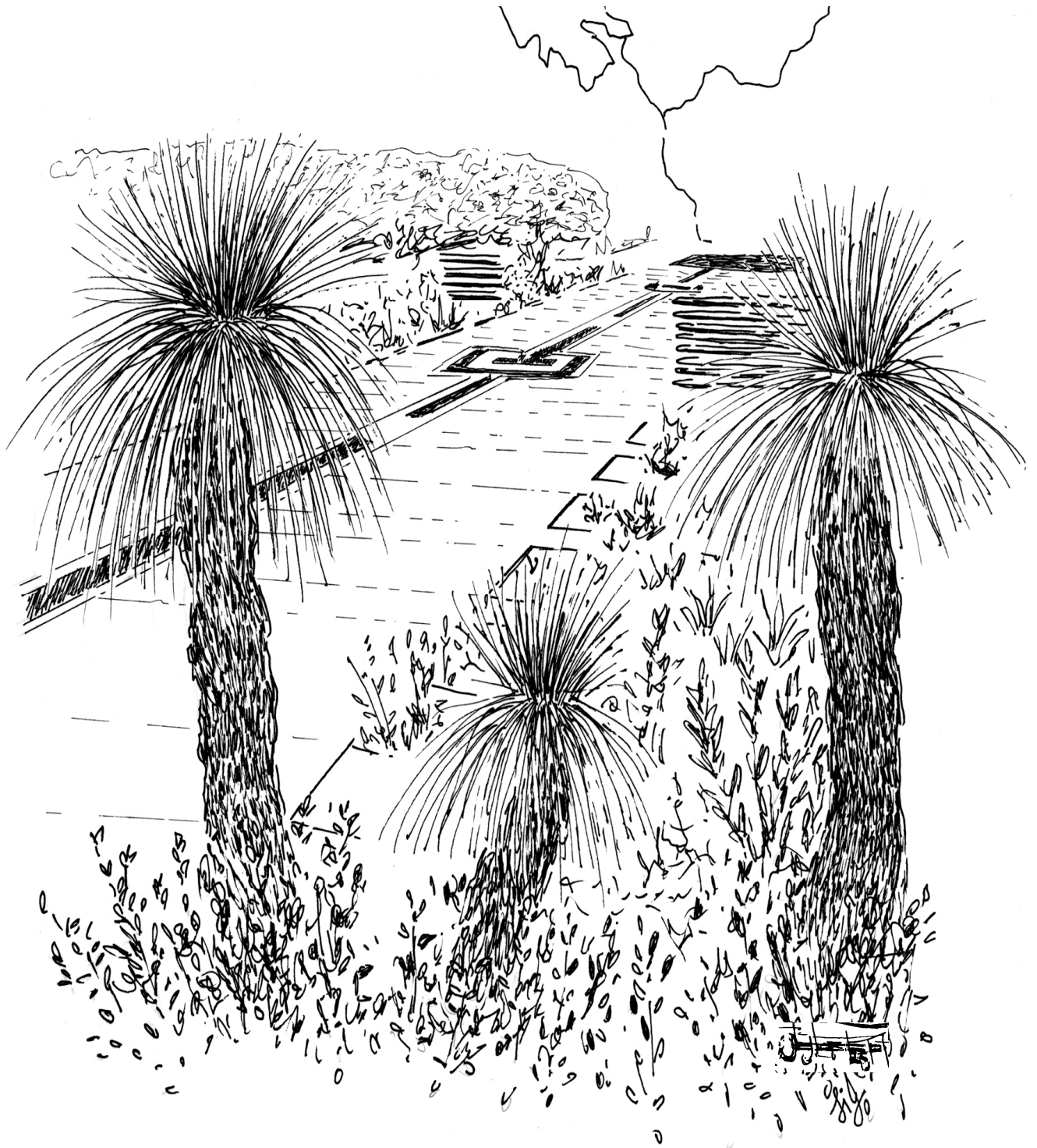
\_\_\_\_\_

This garden rates a...

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10 (tops)



**"This was not the closed garden evidently, and she could go into it."**



**Add some art:** Add people walking along the Water Rill.

**Hidden Object:** A key

## 4. Palm Parade

Before meeting our palms close up, stop near the bridge by the creek opposite the palm beds. Stand back and enjoy these stately palms in their full glory from a distance.

Graceful single trunks and arching leaves at the top make palms look very regal. Some would say they are the 'royals' of the plant world and this is why they are used in many places to line entrances to important buildings and to lift the appearance of major roads. We have our own palm avenue leading from the Goodman Gate into the garden.

Use the bridge to cross our 'moat' and wander through this palm wonderland. Enjoy the many different shapes and patterns of palms. Remember only plants with PALMAE on the top of their label are the true palms.



### Find out some more...

1. Find the sign in front of this garden and complete the following:  
Palms have been on the earth for over \_\_\_\_\_ million years.  
One thing they provide for people is \_\_\_\_\_

2. What features do the palms here have in common?

Leaves	<b>big / small</b>
Trunks	<b>one / many</b>
Branches present	<b>true / false</b>



3. Palms grow from the **top / side** of the trunk.

4. Find a Nolina plant in this garden. Why isn't it a palm? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Find a palm in this garden that you would crown the 'King' or 'Queen' of all the plants gathered here and complete the following.

I chose \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

6. The fattest palm here is \_\_\_\_\_. It reminds me of a \_\_\_\_\_  
Is there a strangler plant growing on it near the top? **yes / no**

### This garden rates a ...

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10 (tops)

**"It was a procession that moved slowly, but with dignity. Every few yards it stopped to rest. ...His head was held up all the time and he looked very grand."**



**Add some art:** Add a scar pattern to the trunk of a palm.

**Hidden Object:** A swing

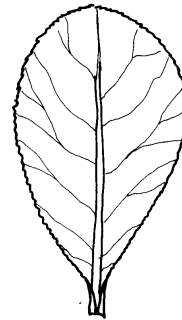
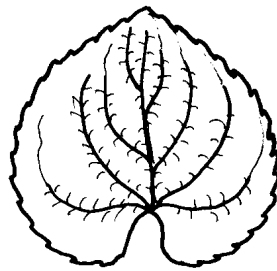
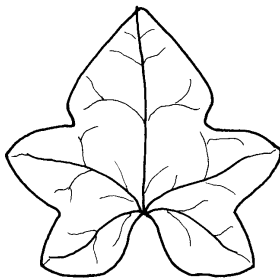
## 5. Garden of Contrast

This garden is made up of two different layers. At the top is a canopy of leaves held up by the spreading graceful branches of large trees. Up high the leaves enjoy an easy life, catching plenty of sun to make food. Down below, lurking in the shadows beneath the trees, are the shade-loving groundcover plants. Under the canopy, life is much tougher. Special leaves that are very good at catching the sun are required to make plant food.



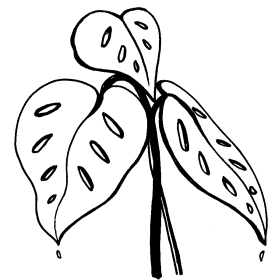
### Find out some more...

1. Gardeners visit this garden to find what **tall / short** plants to grow in the **shade / light**.
2. Tick the following shaped groundcover leaves when you find them.



3. Leaves on groundcover plants are often **bigger / smaller** than leaves on the trees.  
This means they can catch **more / less** sunlight to grow.
4. Find the groundcovers sign, it will help you complete the following.  
Groundcovers are good in the garden because they:

- a.
- b.
- c.



6. My favourite groundcover here is \_\_\_\_\_.

### This garden rates a ...

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10 (tops)

**"They are so busy and having such fun under the earth or in the trees or heather. It's their world."**



**Add some art:** Add a drawing of the sun.

**Hidden Object:** A squirrel

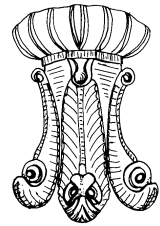
## 6. Plants for People Garden

Long before supermarkets, shops and fast food take-aways people needed gardens for many of their everyday needs. Home gardens provided much more than just fresh fruit and vegetables, they grew medicines to make you well, deodorants and soaps to make you smell sweet and herbs and spices to flavour your food. The traditional household garden was really a one-stop, living shop.



### Find out some more...

- Three different plants growing here that could be used in the kitchen are:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
- Not all household gardens were as grand as this one, however, many were laid out like this one with small beds near paths.  
Why is this a good design? \_\_\_\_\_
- Without picking them, hold different leaves between your finger and thumb.  
Press gently and SMELL your hand.  
My favourite smelling leaf was from \_\_\_\_\_
- A plant used for medicine is \_\_\_\_\_. It could be used to cure \_\_\_\_\_



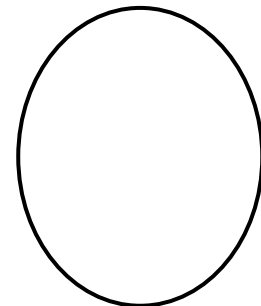
### The Coalbrookdale Fountain

Fountains in gardens around the world create sparkling reflections and musical sounds. The Coalbrookdale Fountain, adds a sense of harmony and balance to this garden. It is one of many designs from the famous Coalbrookdale Iron Foundry in England.

- How does the fountain balance this garden?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- What animal can be found at the top of the fountain? \_\_\_\_\_

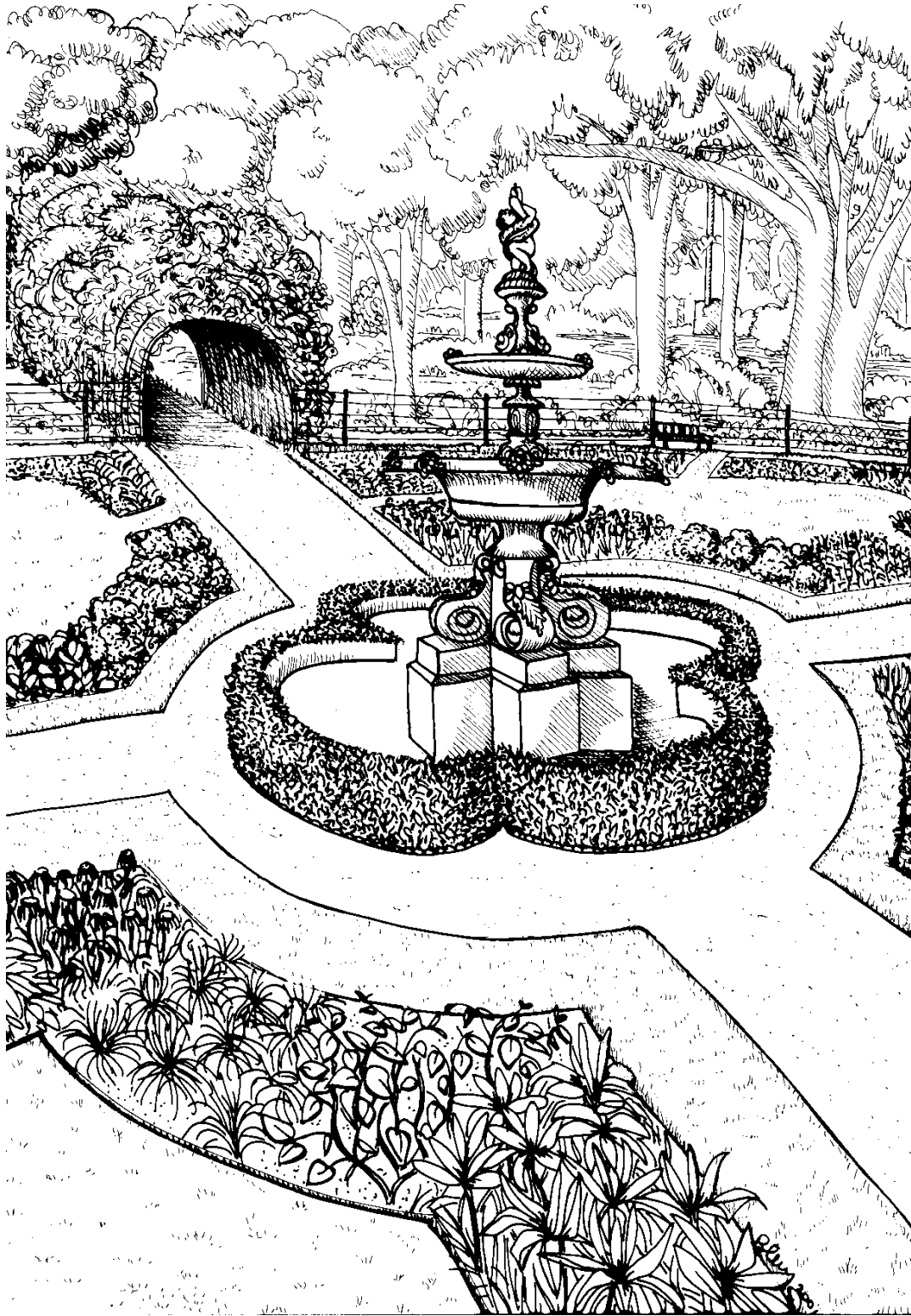
- Image you were flying high above this garden.  
Draw the pattern of the beds as seen from above.



### This garden rates a...

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10 (tops)

**"She was not familiar enough with England to know that she was coming upon the kitchen-gardens where the vegetables and fruits were growing. "**



**Add some art:** Finish the top of the fountain.

**Hidden Object:** A spade

## 7. Desert Palace

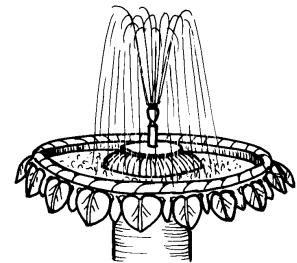
Here, under the beautiful glass of the Old Palm House, grow some of the world's toughest and strangest looking desert plants. In Madagascar, where they normally live, these plants put up with long periods of sweltering heat and little water. They need special features to survive.

The desert climate created under the glass is for plants, not people. Hopefully the cooling sounds of trickling water at both ends of the glasshouse provide relief and escape from the heat of a garden built for plants.



### Your Thoughts...

1. Some people don't like the look of these strange plants, others think when they are combined together they develop their own particular garden beauty. What do you think?
2. The strangest looking plant here is \_\_\_\_\_
3. The most dangerous plant to touch here is the \_\_\_\_\_
4. A plant that looks like an octopus is \_\_\_\_\_
5. Two water saving features many of these desert plants have are:
  - a.
  - b.
6. I **like** / **do not like** the Grotto at the end of the Palm House because...
7. Glasshouses add to the beauty of gardens and create climates for special groups of plants. Look around, tick the following shapes you can find in the glasshouse roof and walls.



**Triangle      Square      Rectangle      Segment      Semi-circle      Octagon**

8. Many of the plants in here can be grown in parts of Australia because  
\_\_\_\_\_

**This garden rates a...**

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10 (tops)



**"It's a wild dreary enough place to my mind, though there's plenty that likes it..."**



**Add some art:** Finish the pattern of the paving.

**Hidden Object:** Silver bells