Scavenger Hunt!

Please be mindful that this is a botanical garden. You cannot pick anything, and to keep yourself and the plants safe and happy, walk only on the paths. Feel free to adapt the Scavenger Hunt to suit the age and interest level of your group!

Thank you for visiting. For more information, including all educational programs and activities, visit our website: www.leachgarden.org
Leach Garden, as well as the whole Portland Metro Area, rests on traditional village sites of many tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River, creating communities and summer encampments to harvest and use the plentiful natural resources of the area.

Jacob Johnson operated a sawmill here during the second half of the 19th century. After that, the property was reportedly a pig farm. John and Lilla Leach purchased the four plus acres for $10 as a country getaway in 1931. They built the Stone Cabin across the creek first, then the Manor House, and they moved here to live in 1936. They called their home “Sleepy Hollow.”

Lilla was an accomplished botanist who found and documented five species of plants as yet unknown to science. She won the American award for botany and was the first recipient of the Eloise Payne Luquer medal given by the Garden Clubs of America. John was a successful drugstore owner and a civic leader. John and Lilla left their property to the City of Portland to be “a public botanical park and museum.”

Lilla packs up a donkey for a backcountry trip

John and Lilla Leach 1955
Item #1

Facing the Manor House, walk up the small set of 4 stairs. Look left at the garden bed just beside the stars. Find the unusual plants in pots in the ground.

What kind of plants are these?
A) The above ground part of a carrot
B) They’re not plants at all
C) Carnivorous plants
D) Parasitic plants
Answer on next page.
The answer is C. These are carnivorous pitcher plants in the Sarraceniaceae family.

*Darlingtonia californica*, also called cobra lily, is found in Oregon.

Like other plants, carnivorous plants get energy from the sun. However, they have adapted to living in wet areas that don’t have enough nutrients by getting most of what they need from insects and other small animals.

The leaves are hollow tubes containing nectar that attracts insects. Once inside, the insect gets confused by light areas that look like exits, and eventually falls into a pool of liquid at the bottom of the stalk. Once there, bacteria decompose it, and the plant absorbs nitrogen and other nutrients.

**Fun fact:** A pitcher plant in Borneo attracts woolly bats that roost in the pitchers. Their poop provides the plant with nitrogen, and the bats get a safe, relatively pest free environment to roost in.
Item # 2

Now look to the other side of the steps. There is a very large gingko tree. Look around it. Do you see the very tall grass?

What kind of grass is this?
A) Bamboo
B) Wheat grass
C) Crabgrass
D) Lemongrass

Answer on next page.
The answer is A. This is black bamboo.

Botanical Name: *Phyllostachys nigra*

Origin: China and Eastern Asia

Bamboo is evergreen, and this one can reach 35 feet tall. The world record for the fastest growing plant is a bamboo that can grow at up to 35 inches per day (0.00002 mph). When the plants are two years old the stems can turn black or brown. After they die, they often turn a pale brown. Can you identify some relative ages?

**Item #3**

From this location turn left and head around the Manor House. In the middle of the stone and brick terrace, you'll see a large hawthorn tree. Look carefully to find the rows and rows of small holes on the trunks.

What made these holes?

A) They are a natural part of the tree itself
B) Squirrels stashing acorns for the winter
C) Large carpenter ants
D) Red-breasted sapsuckers

Answer on next page.
The answer is D. These holes were made by a woodpecker called a red-breasted sapsucker.

Sapsuckers do not suck sap. They lap it up with the tip of the tongue. Sapsuckers also search for and eat insects. Most trees easily survive the hundreds of tiny holes these birds drill - in the same way that maple trees survive humans tapping them for maple syrup.

Item #4

Now turn toward the creek, and find the stone steps that lead down from the corner of the Manor House: count 25 stairs. Go left at the bottom of the stairs. Make a quick right down 5 more stone steps. Make another right and when you see the sign titled "Ferns" turn right. Walk along this path until you come to a part of the trail that has a raised and snaking pattern in the ground. This will be just before the ascending steps going off to the right of the trail. Do you see the design on the path? These are roots from the tree on your left.

What kind of tree is this?
A) Pine
B) Maple
C) Douglas-fir
D) Western redcedar
Answer on next page.
The Answer is D. This is a Western redcedar.

Botanical Name: *Thuja plicata* Origin: Western North America

This is an evergreen with a fast growth rate adding 2 to 2.5 feet each year. It can grow up to 200 feet tall, but most are about 70 feet. It can live over one thousand years.

Fun fact: Western redcedar is not a true cedar. It is an arborvitae.

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Item #5

Now see if you can find your way to the path along the water.

What is the name of the water flowing through this area?
A) Columbia River
B) Blue Lake
C) Sandy River
D) Johnson Creek

Answer on next page.
The answer is D. This is Johnson Creek.

The creek begins in Boring, Oregon and then joins the Willamette river in Milwaukie after traveling 26 miles. William Johnson put a sawmill on the bank of the creek in the 1840s. Salmon are found in the creek, but not at the high numbers there were in the past. There are also native mussels, river lamprey, and lots of crawdads! Look carefully and you may see one! (Please stay on the trails. This is a sensitive habitat!)

**Item #6**

Now head back towards the Manor House. Be sure to climb the same stone steps: count 25. Once you are back on the East Terrace, turn right. You will see a smaller white house, this is called the Carriage House. Walk towards the brick bench to the right of it. When you are in front of and facing the bench take the trail to the left. It will lead you up 3 sets of stairs: count 30 steps. Walk up the trail to the right, keeping the chain link fence on the right side. Look for two large trees with thick, craggy bark on the right.

What type of trees are these?
A) Maple
B) Douglas-fir
C) Western red-cedar
D) Pine
Answer on next page.
The answer is B. These are Douglas-fir trees.

**Botanical Name:** *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

This evergreen is Oregon's state tree. It can grow 300 feet tall. Its native range is along the west coast from California to the middle of British Columbia. They usually live about 250 years, but some have lived more than 1,000 years.

**Fun Facts:**
- It is not a real fir. It has its own genus, *Pseudotsuga* which means false hemlock.
- Douglas-fir trees’ thick spongy bark makes them resistant to fire damage. An oral legend tells how a mouse tried to find shelter from a fire. A Douglas-fir tree told the mouse to climb up and crawl into one of its cones. There the mouse found safety. Pick up a cone and see if you can spot little mice tails and legs sticking out from the scales of the cone.

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**Item #7**

Walk farther up the trail along the chain link fence. After passing two more large, close-together Douglas-fir trees, look for this plant.

**What is this plant?**

A) Oregon-grape  
B) Salmonberry  
C) Salal  
D) Huckleberry  

Answer on next page.
The answer is A. This is Oregon-grape.

**Botanical Name:** *Berberis aquifolium* also known as *Mahonia aquifolium*

(You may also see *Berberis nervosa*, Cascade Oregon-grape. It has flatter, less shiny leaves with three veins originating at the base:

Oregon-grape is native to the west coast, all the way up through British Columbia, and is Oregon’s state flower. The berries aren’t very good, but they can be made into a tasty jam. (Remember-- no picking in the Garden!)

**Item # 8**

Continue up the hill, keeping to the right along the chain link fence. Just before you come to a meadow, take the last gravel path to the left. Look for some large basalt rocks on your left.

What are these rocks doing here?
A) They were left here by the Missoula floods.
B) They were deposited in the Garden by the Boring Lava Field volcanos.
C) They’re art.
D) What rocks?!

Answer on next page.
The answer is C. They’re art

In 1996 artist Michihiro Kosuge designed and installed these carved and shaped stones in the northwest corner of East Portland’s Ed Benedict Park. The installation was designed to provide a place where visitors could sit and quietly contemplate the relationship between the massive basalt blocks and the points of the compass marked by the tallest stones. It was relocated to Leach Botanical Garden in 2019, where it can more fully serve its purpose.

Item # 9

Walk out into the meadow and look for some large, round pieces of wood. These came from a Douglas fir tree that had to be cut down for safety reasons.

You will see many rings inside the wood rounds, starting at the outer edge and getting smaller, all the way to the center. Some trees have two sets of rings. This happens when they have more than one trunk or when a branch and the main trunk have fused.

What are these rings?

A) They show where insects tunneled inside the tree
B) They are growth rings, one for each year
C) It’s just a pretty pattern and has no significance
D) They’re layers of nitrogen, an important nutrient the tree gets from the soil

Answer on next page.
The answer is B. These are growth rings.

Each spring and summer a tree adds new layers of wood to its trunk. The wood formed in spring grows quickly, and is lighter in color. In summer, growth is slower-- the wood has smaller cells and is darker. When the tree is cut, the layers appear as alternating rings of light and dark wood.

The rings in the middle are the oldest. Count the dark rings, and you will know the tree's age.

You have finished the scavenger hunt!

Feel free to enjoy the meadow and "Contemplative Place". You can return to the Manor House using the same path along the chain link fence that you used to come up.

For more information/a list of references, please contact the education coordinator, jvrilakas@leachgarden.org

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