

GOOD GARDENER QUIZ

START HERE:

Are you willing to work long hours outside?

N

No Gardener

You're not cut out to be a Victorian gardener. It's tough work, the hours are long and you work 313 days a year with only Sundays off.

William's diary says:

'Sat 6th June
At work till dark watering etc.'

Y

Do you have a good knowledge of botany (plants) and geometry (mathematics about space and shapes)?

N

Do you have practical knowledge of gardening, through years of working in gardens?

Y

Garden Labourer

(Daily wage 2 shillings 2d = 11p today).

You help move garden supplies and equipment, prepare the ground, and help with planting out, watering and weeding.

William's diary says:

'Wed 20th May
Seed beds in kitchen garden well watered.'

Y

Do you read books about gardening in your own time?

Y

Are you married, with lots of gardening experience?

N

Under-Gardener

(Daily wage 2 shillings 8d = 13p to-day).

If you keep working hard, you hope to become a head gardener. As you're unmarried you can move around to different places for work to get lots of experience.

William's diary says:

'Mon 31st August
Received from Mr Bryan [Head Gardener] 3.9s
4d for month's wages, also notice to leave at end of next month.'

William left Audley End in September 1874 and got a new job at Cambridge Botanic Garden.

N

Y

Garden Apprentice

(Daily wage 8d = 3.3p today).

You're showing promise to become an under-gardener soon if you do a bit of extra homework and read up on gardening techniques.

William's diary says:

'Tues 31st March
Fruit trees in Orchard House ... dusted with snuff tobacco powder etc to kill flies.'

Head Gardener

(Daily wage 4 shillings = 21p today).

You are a high-status manager of all the garden staff.

William's diary says:

'Sat 7th March
Left Forest Hill for Lord Braybrooke's Audley End
2.45 train ... Looked over houses with Mr Bryan,
Head Gardener.'

This was William's first day at Audley End.

ACTIVITY 5

Recommended For

KS1 and KS2
(History, Biology, Maths, Art)

Learning Objectives

- Understand how and why geometric designs were used to create the parterre garden at Audley End.
- Use artistic skills to design geometric patterns.
- Understand what seeds need in order to grow.



An aerial view of the parterre garden's geometric design at Audley End.

Summary

In 1832 William Sawrey Gilpin, a fashionable garden designer, advised on the formal geometric parterre at Audley End. The design was taken from an 18th-century garden pattern book. The intricate patterns created by the plant beds could be admired from the first-floor windows of the house. Maintaining such a garden was labour-intensive though, and it was grassed over in the mid-20th century. English Heritage excavated the garden and restored it to its original design between 1985 and 1993.

Create a small-scale version of the Audley End parterre with pupils by growing cress seeds. Prepare a plastic tray and line it with wet kitchen roll, and then a layer of wet cotton wool. To make the geometric garden pattern either print and cut out the template provided on the next page (ideally on light card) or ask pupils to design their own geometric patterns and use these to create new templates. Remember to only cut out the geometric shapes.

Lay the chosen template on top of the wet cotton wool, and sprinkle cress seeds into the cut-out shapes. Gently press down the cress seeds and sprinkle them with water. You can either leave the template on top of the cotton wool or carefully peel it off. Leave your plastic tray somewhere warm and sunny like a windowsill, and sprinkle with water every day. The cress should start to sprout within two days and will then grow through the cut-out shapes to create a geometric pattern.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

When the parterre at Audley End was restored, gardeners were careful to replant it as it was originally designed, using varieties of plants available in the 1830s. The beds are planted with roses, herbaceous flowers and annuals. The flowers change seasonally and include tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, primroses and forget-me-nots.

Pick one of these plants for pupils to sketch. This could also be used as a study for labelling the parts of a flower.

GEOMETRIC PARTERRE GARDEN DESIGN TEMPLATE

