

Gardening

Unit 2 of 7

*"In the hope of reaching the moon
men fail to see the flowers
that blossom at their feet."*

Quotation by Albert Schweitzer (1875 -1965), doctor, missionary, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

- 1. What do you think Albert Schweitzer meant by this quotation?
- 2. How has such a statement been relevant in your life?



In this Unit we are going to look at Container Gardening. This is a very popular method of creating an instant garden in a limited space with a wide range of plants, colors, and combinations. Containers can be used to match your mood, your home, and your surroundings.

- 3. What do you think are other advantages of container gardening?
- 4. Name six different types of containers in which you could grow plants. What would you grow in each?
- 5. Design and draw your very own container.

Now it's brainteaser time!

- 6. How many words can you make form the word *container*? Hint -- there are at least thirty!



Whatever kind of container you use -- ceramic, terra cotta, metal, plastic, or wood, there have to be holes in the bottom.

7. What do you think the holes are for? What would happen to the plants if there were just rocks or gravel in the bottom?

Container plants do best being planted in potting mix rather than just soil. Potting mix is full of organic matter that feeds the plants, offers good drainage, and helps protect the plants from soil-borne diseases.

8. What else do you think would be very important to growing plants in containers and why?

Fine Gardening Magazine suggests using the following technique when planting a container garden:

"A **thriller** is a centerpiece plant with star quality, something big, bold and beautiful. A **filler** is a billowy and usually more finely textured plant that surrounds and weaves through the thriller. And finally, a **spiller** is a graceful drooper that provides a finishing touch by sprawling over the side of the container, softening its edges while tumbling toward the ground."

9. What plant would you use as:

- a) a thriller
- b) a filler
- c) a spiller



These could, with a bit of ingenuity, be made into containers, but usually they are left to adorn a front yard or garden. The *pink flamingo* was designed in 1957 by an art-school graduate named Donald Featherstone. At fifty years old, this plastic symbol of pop culture is still either loved or hated! The flamingos are usually sold in pairs -- one with its neck held gracefully upward and one with the neck curving downward.

Up until 2006, more than 250,000 pairs of flamingos a year were made at a factory in Massachusetts.

10. Why do you think they were so popular?

11. Write a story about what a pink flamingo standing in a garden for twenty years might have seen.



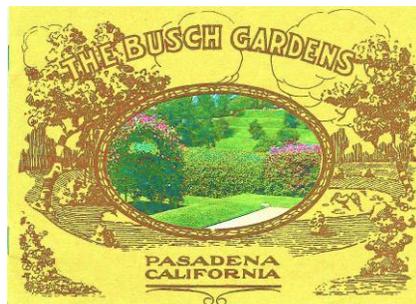
12. Name five other garden ornaments and their uses.

13. What would be your favorite garden ornament and why?

Bush Gardens

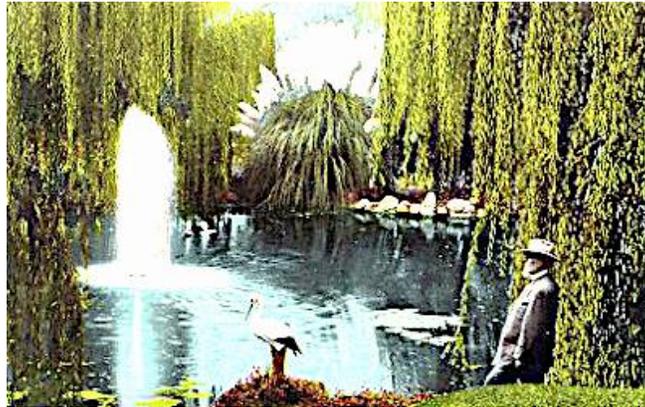
The *Busch Gardens* we know today are amusement parks, but the original garden was owned by Adolphus Busch who lived on a spacious estate in Pasadena, California in the early 1900s. He owned a magnificent home overlooking the Arroyo Seco canyon. He built some of the most beautiful gardens ever seen in California. In 1938 he offered them to the City for use as a public park but was turned down by the Pasadena's Board of Directors.

14. Why do you think such an amazing gift would have been turned down?



Unfortunately, the entire *Busch Gardens* were then turned over to developers to build private homes.

15. What would you have done with the land?



16. Write a poem about the above picture of the pond and fountain.

The *Busch Gardens* today are two amusement parks owned and operated by the Busch Entertainment Corporation, a division of Anheuser-Busch. One is in Tampa, Florida and the other in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The *Busch Gardens* in Williamsburg opened in 1975 and have a European theme. Originally nicknamed "the Old Country," it has attractions called "Escape from Pompeii" and "the Loch Ness" monster. In 2007, a new rollercoaster called the "Griffon" opened. It is the tallest dive coaster in the world and is floorless.

17. Why do you think rollercoasters are so popular?

The *Busch Gardens* in Tampa Bay opened in 1959 in the grounds of the Anheuser-Busch brewery. There, visitors could watch animals in a tropical setting and taste the local brew in the adjacent beer garden. Originally nicknamed "The Dark Continent," there is a distinctly African theme to the park. In 2005, the SheiKra diving rollercoaster opened. It has a 90-degree vertical drop.



SheiKra was the first "dive machine" rollercoaster in the United States.

18. Describe six rides you would put in your own amusement park. Give all the rides appropriate names.

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes