

College Guild
PO Box 6448 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Gardening

Unit 1 of 7

Welcome to the College Guild course Gardening.

Overview: This course provides a varied and hopefully thought-provoking look at gardening through many different eyes. There are no right or wrong answers, so take your time and use your imagination.

Guidelines for all College Guild courses:

1. **Answer all the questions that are in bold print, using black or blue ink or dark pencil if possible.** After we receive and review your completed Unit, we will send you feedback from your reader along with your original work and the next Unit. You don't need to return the questions – it saves us both postage.
2. There is no **specific deadline** to complete any Unit, but we would get concerned if we hadn't heard back from you after two months.
3. Remember how often the mail service loses things. **If you don't hear back from us after a month, please write to make sure we received your Unit** and sent out the next one.

Let us know if you need a dictionary, free to students who complete the first unit.

"One plant in a tin can may be a more helpful and inspiring garden to some than a whole acre of lawn and garden."

Quotation by Liberty Bailey, a horticulturist, who lived in the early 1800s.



1. What do you think was meant by Liberty Bailey's quotation?

The word *garden* originates from the German *gart*, meaning enclosure. A garden means many things to many people. It can be a vast estate or a tiny handkerchief sized piece of land, a few pot plants on a balcony, or a Japanese Zen garden full of stones and rocks.

2. Do you perceive gardens as part of your life - past, present or future?

3. What are your earliest recollections of a garden? Where was it? What was in it? How did it make you feel?

4. What do you think is the difference between a yard and a garden?

Gardens can be filled with flowers and greenery, fruits and vegetable, trees and shrubs, water and sand.

5. What would you fill your garden with? List at least 5-8 elements you'd include in a garden you design.

6. Would your garden have to change if it was to be used by children? If yes, describe how.

And now for a brain teaser:

7. How many words can you make from the word *garden*? Hint -- there are at least 12!

In many towns and cities there are community gardens. Local citizens have gotten together and transformed vacant lots, wastelands, and neglected areas into beautiful and productive areas. Many memorial gardens, community flower gardens, and fruit and vegetable gardens are maintained year-round by the local inhabitants.



8. Name at least five benefits that you believe are created by such gardens. As you list these, think about the benefits to the community, the individuals living in the community, visitors to the community, businesses in the community, etc.

9. If you were able to grow fruit and vegetables in a community garden, how would you distribute the produce among the citizens of the community? Would you prioritize the distribution to one or more individual groups of citizens? If so, which group or groups?

In many Asian cities such as Singapore and Hong Kong, where land is very expensive and most low-level properties have been demolished for mass, high rise buildings, there is no space for communities to have gardens. Apartment gardens are being created "to relieve the monotony of living in concrete". On many balconies are pots of tropical flowers, small ponds of gold fish and Koi carp. Even without a balcony, homes are filled with orchids and fish tanks.

10. If you lived in an apartment with no balcony, how would you create a garden?

Many high-rise condominiums are given names such as "Orchid Terrace" or "Fragrant Heights".

11. Why would this be a good selling point for a developer?

Governments around the world are now trying to go "green" in their cities. Beijing in China is attempting to have thousands of roof gardens throughout the city, and in Singapore a housing estate is going to have walls of cooling greenery built into the design. In a world of climate change, going "green" helps reduce air temperatures and can also reduce noise and air pollution.

12. Imagine if you lived in a city where the temperatures soared, what elements of design would you incorporate into the buildings to help keep them cooler?

The word *garden* is used to describe many familiar places. In Chinese and Italian cultures, adding "garden" to the name of a public place lends a certain splendor, with or without actual living plants. "Ornamental grounds, used as a place of public resort" is one of the dictionary definitions of "gardens." A great example of this is Madison Square Garden. This has been the name of four arenas in New York City. The first Madison Square Garden was on the original site of P.T. Barnum's "Barnum's Monster Classical and Geological Hippodrome." The first garden opened to the public on the 31st of May in 1879 and was designed for the sport of track and cycling.



13. Why do you think track cycling would have been so popular then?

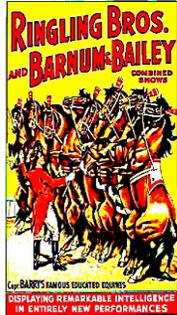
In 1890 the second Madison Square Garden was built by Stanford White. His design was Moorish in style with a minaret tower over thirty-two stories high. The Garden's main hall was the largest in the world and could seat 8,000 people. It was torn down in 1924 in order to build the New York Life Insurance building.

A Moorish design is any that relates to the **Moors**, denoting the style of architecture used in Spain from the 13th to 16th century. A "minaret" is a tower that's often used in this type of design as you can see in the picture below.



14. Should a building of such architectural interest be pulled down? Why or why not?

The third Garden was built in 1925 by boxing promoter Tex Rickard in 249 days on a different site. This was to become a popular venue for the New York Americans and the Rangers ice hockey teams. Since 1919 however the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus had become exceedingly popular at Madison Square Garden and eventually took precedent over the hockey games.



15. It's been reported that the circus was far more popular than the hockey games. What do you think it was about the circus that caused its popularity?

Eventually boxing was to be Madison Square Garden III's main sporting event and was featured in the 2005 film *Cinderella Man*. Because of poor ventilation and excessive smoking, the upper sections of the Garden were filled with a smoky haze.

16. To solve that problem, why do you believe smoking was not banned?

In 1968 the current Madison Square Garden was built on the site of the old Pennsylvania Station and could seat up to 20,000 people. It is now home of the New York Knicks of the NBA and the New York Rangers of the NHL. World Wrestling Entertainment also considers it a home arena. In addition, it is famous for many pop concerts, most notably Elton John who holds the all-time record for the greatest number of appearances at the Garden.



17. If you could attend one concert there, whom would you like to see and why?

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