



Introduction

Welcome to the Smithsonian Garden's *History in Full Bloom* backpack program for the Haupt Garden! The Haupt Garden is located between the Smithsonian Castle and Independence Avenue in Washington, D.C.

History in Full Bloom is an interpretive backpack program that allows children in kindergarten through fourth grade to engage in several multi-sensory activities throughout the Haupt Garden that will enhance their understanding of the history of the Smithsonian. By actively using the space and resources of the gardens, children will gain a wider appreciation of how gardens preserve the culture of Victorian America, as well as the Smithsonian's long history of collecting plants and educating visitors about natural history. This program will show children that studying history is an exhilarating adventure to be experienced in full bloom. Embark on your own journey through history by exploring the activities throughout the Haupt Garden.

Our story begins with James Smithson, a wealthy mineralogist and chemist, who left his fortune and collection of scientific objects from around the world to the United States of America in 1836. His wish to create "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men" was carried out by Congress in founding the Smithsonian Institution a decade later in 1846. Curators of the Smithsonian embarked on expeditions to collect plants from around the world and display them among Smithson's collections. The Smithsonian led Victorian America in the effort to document, display and diffuse knowledge of its collections, seeking to express its confidence in America's cultural and intellectual superiority. Today it remains America's greatest cultural institution, caring for vast collections and providing educational resources for the benefit of the public.

One such collection is preserved in the Haupt Garden, a representation of American Victorian gardens during the mid to late nineteenth century (1850-1900). Located behind the Smithsonian Castle, the Haupt Garden's central component is a symmetrically patterned parterre (French for "on the ground"), surrounded by the Moongate Garden and the Fountain Garden. Due to the Smithsonian's perpetual interest in exploration, the Haupt Garden maintains a diverse collection of exotic plant species from around the world. The Haupt Garden continues to cultivate a collection of living artifacts that convey the history of the Smithsonian and its deep-seated roots in Victorian America.



Purpose

- Explore the Smithsonian's history, by meeting one of the most prominent individuals who helped create the nation's museum, Spencer Fullerton Baird and his Megatherium (Meg-a-thee-ri-um) Society
- Understand the Smithsonian's mission to collect unique objects, including plants, from new countries throughout the world in order to educate Americans both in the 1870s and today

Length of activity: 10-15 minutes

Age/Grade level: Grades Kindergarten-4, ages 5-9

Location: Moongate Garden, followed by various locations in the garden

Learning Goals:

- Students will learn about Victorian culture through several activities, exploring the past through multiple subjects such as history, math, science, and English.
- Students will use the resources of the Haupt Garden to build an awareness of their physical surroundings and relate to a sense of place that they can recognize outside of the Smithsonian. This will involve making the children actors in the historical narrative of the program and allow them to create their own experiences in the garden.
- Students will understand the importance of cultural landscapes by making connections between the past and present shape of the garden, using primary sources such as photographs, poetry and sketches.
- Students will gain a better understanding of the Smithsonian's collecting expeditions during the Victorian era by interacting with various objects and living artifacts from around the world. They will understand the importance of why the Smithsonian collected from certain places and how these collections represented wealth and the mission to increase and diffuse knowledge.
- Overall, students will develop skills to think historically about plants, gardens and landscapes that they can apply in their own backyard.

What you'll need:

- Identification cards- need to be cut out beforehand
- Map of Haupt Garden
- Magnifying glass-not included



Activity:

On August 10th 1846, just four blocks east of where you're standing, Congress signed the act creating the Smithsonian Institution. In 1846, America was a very young country compared to Great Britain and Europe. But America was growing and becoming more powerful, expanding its interactions and relationships with new countries thousands of miles away. As the national museum, the Smithsonian embarked on a mission to "increase and diffuse knowledge" of the world, by collecting and educating.

During the 1800's, the Smithsonian launched ships on special journeys or Exploring Expeditions, to travel to new American territories and collect unique objects from these places. Curators, or keepers of the collections, brought thousands of objects back to the Smithsonian to be researched, catalogued and displayed. When Assistant Secretary Spencer Fullerton Baird came to the Smithsonian in 1850, he led these efforts.

Secretary Baird was a naturalist, collector and scientist. He had a dream for the Smithsonian: to use these natural objects that you are surrounded by as puzzle pieces, to put together the story of how our world works. Baird continued to send more expeditions throughout the United States to collect rooms full of plants, insects, animals and minerals.

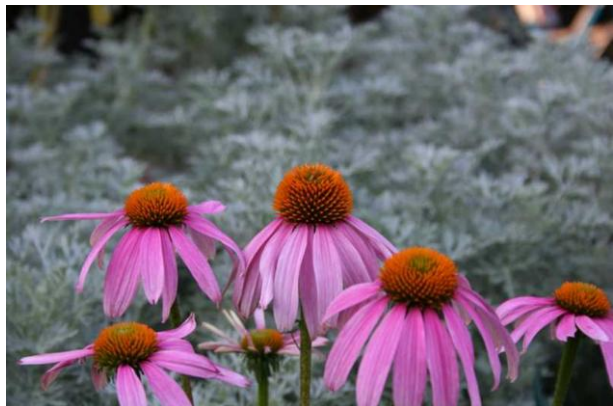
Baird also trained young students how to explore, collect and research these objects. His top four students, William Stimpson, Robert Kennicott, Henry Ulke and Henry Bryant created a special group of collectors, called the Megatherium Society. Inspired by the recent discovery of an ancient sloth fossil, the students named their group the Megatherium Society after this great find. These students helped Baird and the Smithsonian collect even more plants, animals, curiosities and inventions. Today you will travel around the world in the Haupt Garden. You'll see some of the unique plants the Smithsonian explorers and Baird helped collect. By exploring the garden and expanding your mind, you each get to become a member of Baird's Megatherium Society!

BEGIN:

- Take the identification cards. Each card will show you a different object you can find in the garden.
- Try to answer these questions using your identification cards, your map, and your mind!
 - Who was Spencer Fullerton Baird? What did he look like?
 - Who helped the Smithsonian collect objects?
 - Why did the Smithsonian collect these objects?
 - What happened to the Castle in 1865?
 - What is special about the image of the Castle on your card?
 - What was the Castle used for?
 - Where is this plant from? Can you find that country on your map? Can you find it in the garden?
 - What did Victorians use this plant for?
 - Like the Megatherium students, use your magnifying glass to discover special things about the plants you cannot see from far away. Do the leaves and petals look different without the magnifying glass?

Identification Cards

Card # 1



Echinacea purpurea

Purple Coneflower

Native to eastern and central United States

Eastern purple coneflower was one of the most important medicinal plants used by Native Americans.

Located in the Haupt Garden at Smithsonian Gardens.

Card #3



Hedychium coronarium

Ginger Lily/Butterfly lily

Native to India. Used for treating swelling, tonsillitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Located in the Haupt Garden at Smithsonian Gardens.

Card # 2



Ginkgo biloba

Maiden hair tree

Native to China; it is the oldest living tree species.

Used to enhance memory and blood circulation

Located in the Haupt Garden at Smithsonian Gardens.

Card #4



Cephalotaxus harringtonia

Japanese Plum Yew

Native to Japan

Used as herbal supplement for enhancing taste

Located in the Haupt Garden at Smithsonian Gardens.

Card # 5



Eucalyptus cinerea

Argyle Apple

Native to Southeastern Australia

Used for colds, sore throat, aches and skin infections

Located in the Haupt Garden at Smithsonian Gardens.

Card #7



Spencer Fullerton Baird

Spencer Fullerton Baird was Smithsonian Institution's first Assistant Secretary serving under Secretary Joseph Henry from 1850-1878. After Joseph Henry's death in 1878, Baird became Secretary. Baird oversaw the construction of The United States National Museum, which today is the Arts and Industries Building. On May 4, 1978 this statue, sculpted by Leonard Baskin, was unveiled in the Victorian Garden, which today is the Haupt Garden.

Card #6



Smithsonian Castle and South Yard

The Castle was designed by James Renwick, Jr. and was completed in 1855. This building was a home for the first Secretary and his family, a library, laboratory and storage for the first several years of the Smithsonian. This image was captured the same year the Castle erupted in fire: 1865. This stereograph is the earliest innovation in 3-D images from the Victorian era. Does this view look familiar? The grassy South Yard you see here is now the home of the Haupt Garden.

Card #8



Andrew Jackson Downing Urn

Andrew Jackson Downing is considered America's first great landscape architect. In 1851, Downing helped draft a plan to develop a series of parks on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The Downing Urn in the Haupt Garden is a memorial erected in his memory as a commemoration of his life and contributions to American landscape design.