

LITTLE LANDSCAPERS

Design your own garden

Gardens are very important to Muslims. For over 1,200 years, Muslims have built beautiful gardens as a way to honour Allah [God] and to enjoy the beauty He created for them.



Palace garden in a river landscape: late Mughal, Oudh, ca. 1785; opaque watercolour and gold on paper

How many trees can you count in this garden?

Flowers and bodies of water like the ones in this painting can be found in large gardens all over the world.



Morghae Golshan, c. 15th century, Persian miniature painting depicting recreation and excursion in the garden.

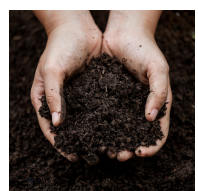
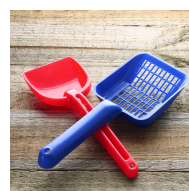
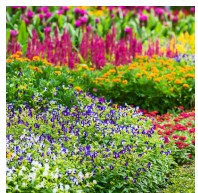
This painting shows how gardens have been used as a place to relax.

What do you like to do when you visit a garden? Do you rest, explore, or play games?

What would your ideal garden look like? Let's design it!

You will need:

- **A shallow cardboard box**
(a shoebox is great!)
- **A container filled with water**
- **Plant, flower and leaf clippings**
(see if you can pick up different ones from around your neighbourhood!)
- **Rocks or pebbles**
- **A spade or spoon**
- **Soil from a park or garden**
- **Gloves**



Use the pictures of gardens in this worksheet as your inspiration to designing your very own garden.

1. **Begin by laying out all of your materials and putting your gloves on.**
2. **Position your glass of water inside your cardboard box. This can represent your fountain or body of water. You can experiment with different shapes of drinking glasses and containers.**
3. **Use a spade or spoon to shovel soil into your cardboard box and around your glass of water. You'll want to fill your box quite high with soil.**
4. **Plant your leaf, flower and plant clippings in the soil. You can do this in any way you like. Get creative!**
5. **Take some rocks or pebbles and place these on top of the soil as a finishing touch.**

You're all finished!

One of the best parts about your garden is that it's environmentally-friendly and biodegradable. You can ask a parent, guardian or carer to help you dig and plant your box in your own garden at home. The cardboard will break down into compost. Just make sure that you remove your glass of water before planting your box.

The team at the Islamic Museum of Australia would love to see your gardens as well. Ask your parent, guardian or carer if you can send a photo to us through Facebook or Instagram by searching **Islamic Museum of Australia**.