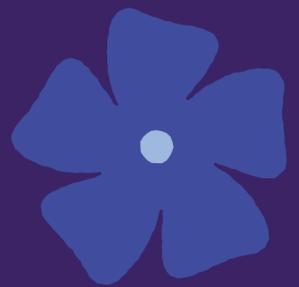
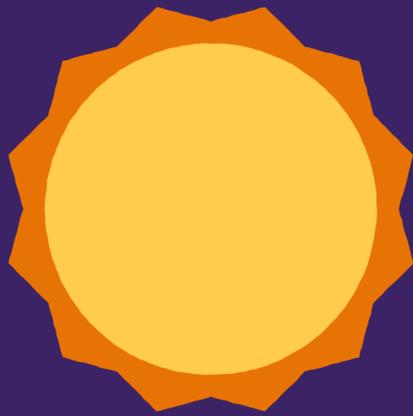




GUNNERSBURY
PARK & MUSEUM



Family Trail



GUNNERSBURY PARK IN THE
SPRING & SUMMER



HI, WELCOME!

Thanks for downloading this Family Trail, designed to show you around the sights, sounds and smells of Gunnersbury's historic park in the spring and summer months.

This step-free trail works best on a mobile phone screen, and all you need is a sense of adventure!

Your route starts at the entrance to Gunnersbury Park Museum.



1

Ready? Let's start!

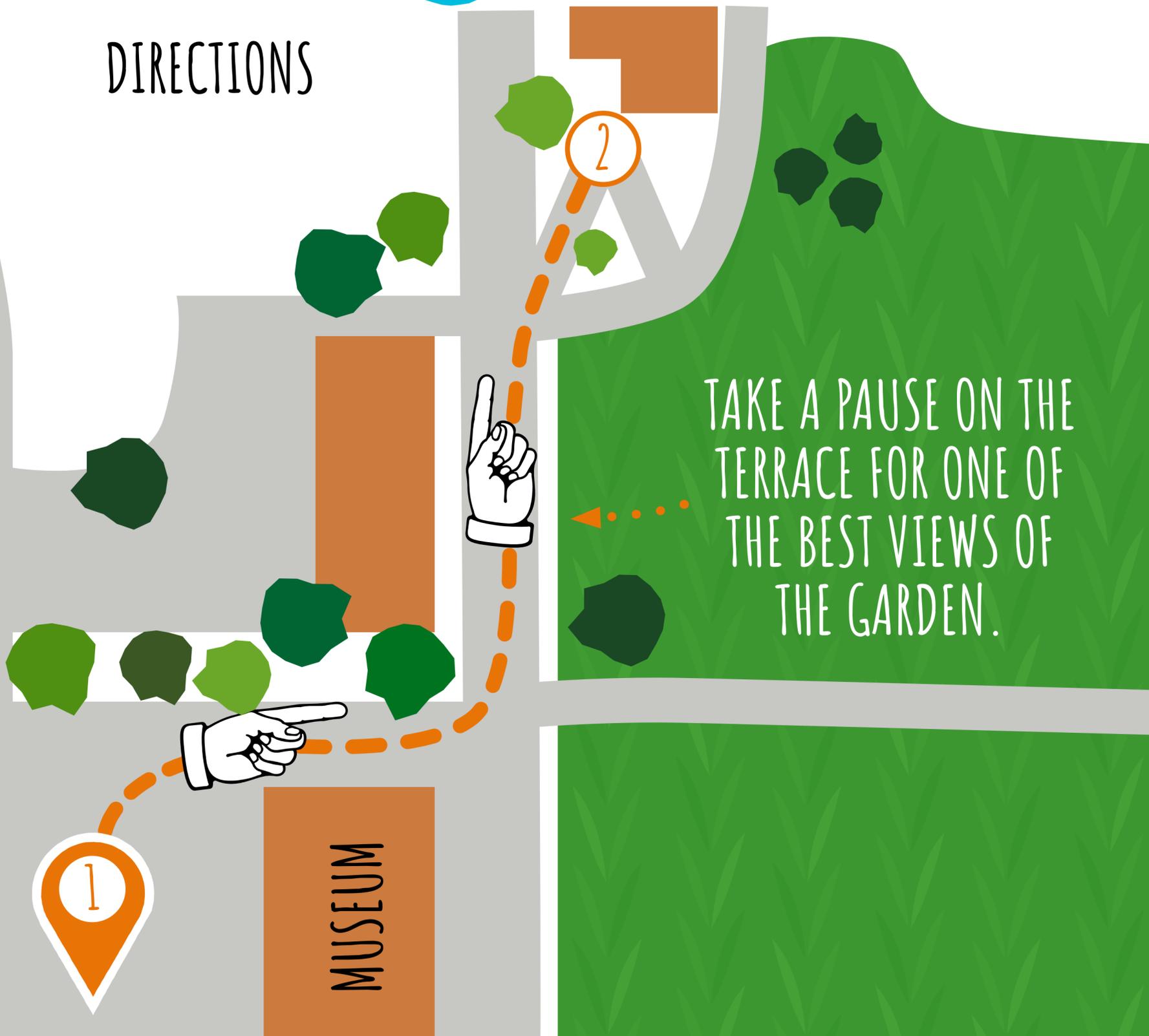
A GARDEN WITH A HOUSE (OR TWO)

The house you're standing in front of was lived in by the Rothschild family and they were CRAZY about their garden. They collected all kinds of exotic plants and trees, and grew some incredible fruits too.

But about 260 years ago, long before the Rothschilds, it was Princess Amelia - the daughter of King George II - who spent a fortune creating much of the park we still see today.

OVER £4 MILLION IN TODAY'S MONEY!
(THAT WOULD BUY YOU MORE THAN 250 MILLION SMARTIES)

DIRECTIONS



1

MUSEUM

2

TAKE A PAUSE ON THE
TERRACE FOR ONE OF
THE BEST VIEWS OF
THE GARDEN.

2

Princess Amelia's Bath House

Having a bath house like this was a bit like a princess having an indoor swimming pool today. Inside there's a changing room, a small bathing pool and walls that were covered in shells and pretty minerals.

THIS STYLE WAS CALLED A 'GROTTO', MEANING A SMALL, PICTURESQUE CAVE

Princess Amelia's Bath House is sometimes open in the summer, but the photo below gives you a glimpse inside...



THERE'S NO WATER IN THE POOL THESE DAYS, BUT THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE LOOKED. WELL, ISH...

2

IN THE GARDEN RIGHT NEXT TO THE BATH HOUSE,
CAN YOU FIND..?

Butcher's Broom



This plant's leaves aren't actually leaves at all...

Look closely: can you see where the flowers and berries grow? The 'leaves' are actually part of the stem.

They're thick, strong and full of an antibacterial substance that made them perfect for butchers to clean their equipment with.

A young Yew Tree



YEW'S ARE PRETTY MEGA THOUGH:

That same poison has helped develop drugs that fight cancer
They can live up to **3,000** years
Perfect wood for making longbows in medieval times

Watch out! To try and stop animals or people eating them, yew trees have made themselves extremely poisonous.



Heritage Orchard

NOT ALL APPLE (OR PLUM OR PEAR) TREES ARE EQUAL

This orchard is saving fruit trees that were popular in the 1800s but which supermarkets don't like very much today. There are apple, plum, pear, peach, cherry, damson and gage trees.

Not only are they rare, but they have some cracking names...
Which fruit do you think matches each of the names below?

Peregrine

Feltham Beauty

Black Worcester

River's Early Prolific

Hounslow Wonder

Shepherd's Bullace

Knight's Early Black

Jefferson Pixy

EACH TREE HAS A TAG YOU CAN CAREFULLY LOOK AT,
OR ZOOM IN ON THE BOX BELOW FOR THE ANSWERS.

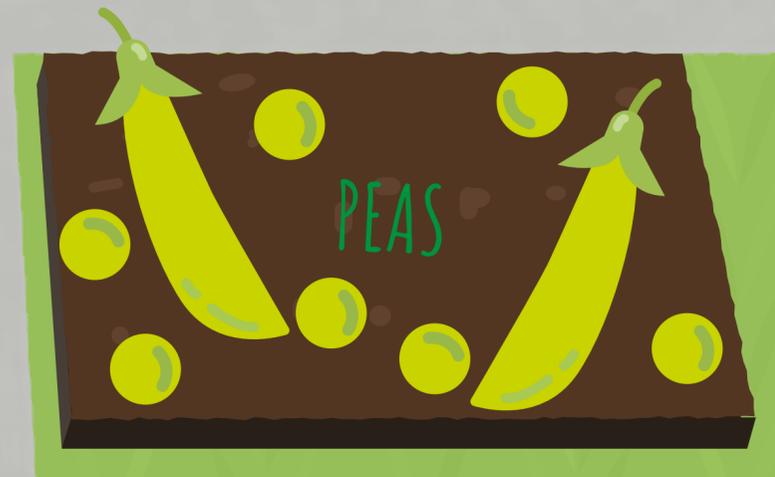
Apple: Hounslow Wonder Feltham Beauty	Pear: Black Worcester	Cherry: Knight's Early Black
Peach: Peregrine	Plum: River's Early Prolific	Gage: Jefferson Pixy
	Damson: Shepherd's Bullace	

Community Garden

FEEDING THE HOUSE

Just over the hedge is the Community Garden. Today it's looked after by volunteers but once upon a time it was the kitchen garden for the Small Mansion.

Here they'd be growing vegetables and herbs throughout the year, ready for the chefs in the kitchen to transform them into meals.



YOU'RE THE CHEF

What would you make with the summer ingredients from the kitchen garden?

How does it compare to your tea from last night?

Japanese Garden

The Japanese Garden was planted about 120 years ago after Leopold de Rothschild visited Italy and saw something similar.

It had a series of water pools, exotic plants and even a bamboo bridge. If that's hard to imagine, take a look at the postcard that was painted at the time.

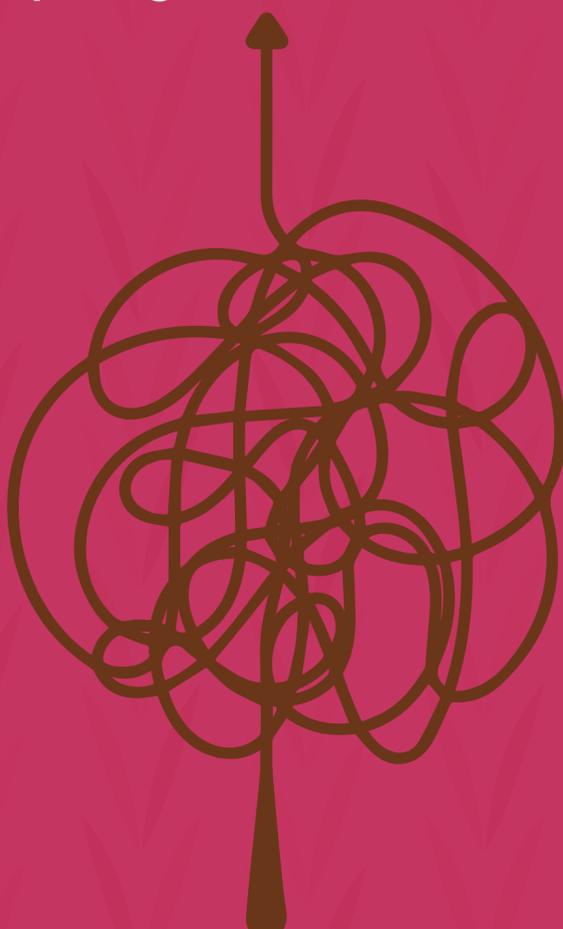


Can you spot some of the plants and items that have survived?

PEEK A PEA?

One of the trees in the Japanese Garden is a member of the pea family of plants. Can you guess which one?

ITS TRUNK LOOKS



A BIT LIKE THIS...

It doesn't often flower, but at the end of summer you *might* just be lucky. Look out for small white flowers.

ZOOM IN FOR
THE ANSWER

The Weeping Japanese Pagoda Tree

EXCEPT IT ACTUALLY COMES FROM CHINA AND KOREA

Gothic Follies

(FROM THE FRENCH 'FOLIE', MEANING 'MADNESS!' IN ENGLISH)

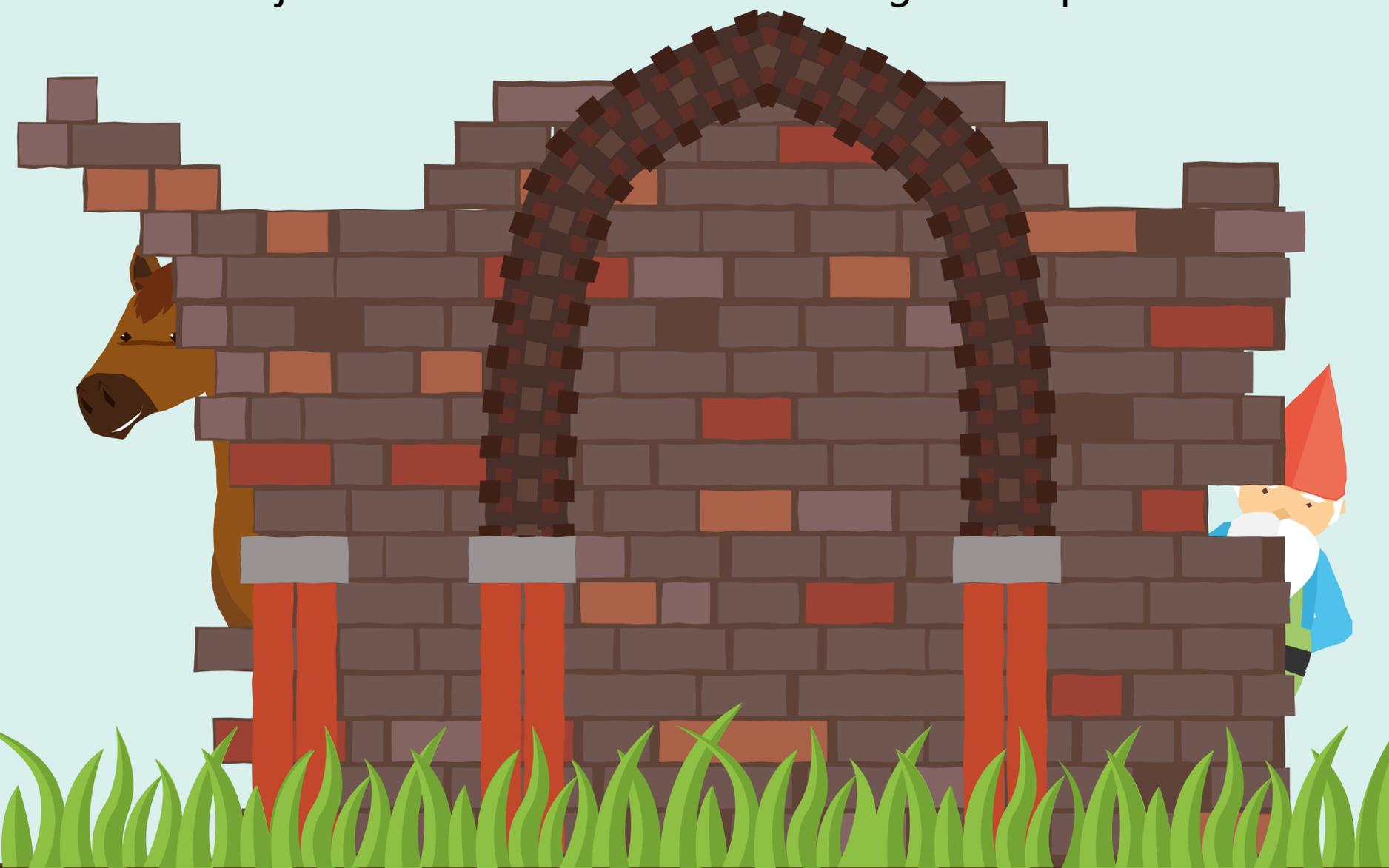
Have you spotted the ruined walls yet?
What do you think they once were?

AN ANCIENT CASTLE?

OOOH, A SECRET BASE?!

A GRAND OLD HOUSE?

Nope. All wrong, unless you said they were... **a trick!**
They were purposely built to look like old, fallen-down ruins just to be a bit more interesting than a plain wall.



HIDE AND SEEK

The walls were designed as a clever way to hide the kitchen garden and stables.

How would you have hidden something so big?

GOTHIC RUINS AND DESIGNS WERE ALL THE RAGE IN THE EARLY 1800S, THOUGHT TO BE MORE ROMANTIC AND REMINISCENT OF A BETTER WAY OF LIFE.

To the Horseshoe Pond

DINOSAUR TREE

Go to the junction in the path, but before turning left keep an eye out for the **Ginkgo trees** straight ahead.

They haven't evolved or changed at all in 270 million years!

(T REX IS 'ONLY' 66 MILLION YEARS OLD)

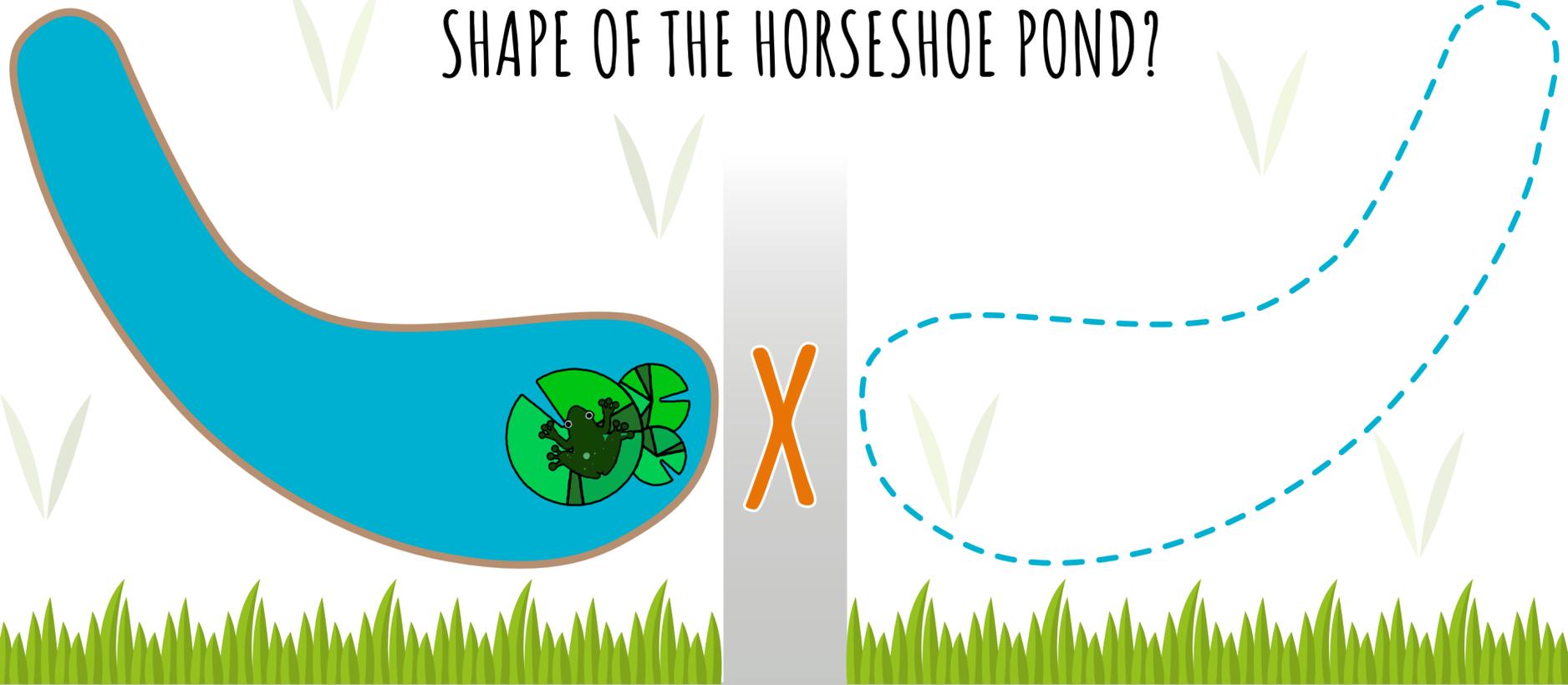


PEG YOUR NOSE!
BE WARNED, GINGKO SEEDS
MAKE QUITE A PONG ONCE ON
THE GROUND



Horseshoe Pond

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THE SHAPE OF THE HORSESHOE POND?



Yup, it's not actually a horseshoeshape these days!

In Princess Amelia's time, it was a full horseshoe. When the original house was demolished in 1800, the pond was split in two - one half for each of the two new mansions.

Later it was entirely filled in (there are rumours of it springing a leak...), and today half has been restored again and half left as a space for the trees to enjoy.

Stand on the bridge, marked as the X on the map.

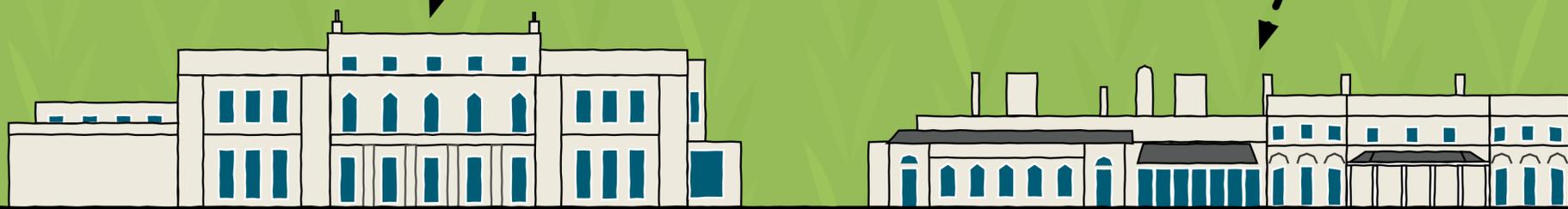
Can you imagine how the garden used to look when the other half of the horseshoe pond was still there?

(THAT ISN'T ACTUALLY A BRIDGE - IT'S ANOTHER TRICK)

Pace out the outline of the missing half of the lake. You can use clues like where the oldest, biggest trees still are to work out where the water once was (and wasn't!)

LARGE MANSION
(NOW THE MUSEUM)

SMALL MANSION



WHERE TO BUILD?

From here you get a great view back to the two mansions, both of which were built where they are to look over the gardens.

If you'd just bought the park, where would you have chosen to build a mansion?

What would it have looked like?

DID YOU KNOW?

The waterlilies are from the same nursery as those Monet put in his garden and painted: Latour-Marliac in France.



NEXT!



Walk just a few steps towards the Orangery...

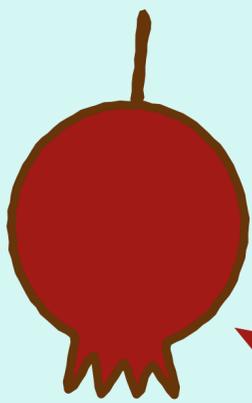
Orangery

COLD OUTSIDE?

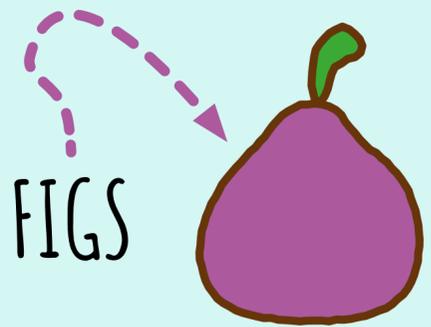
How do you grow fruits and flowers that love hot weather in a (mostly) chilly Gunnersbury?

The Orangery is just one of what used to be many glasshouses in the gardens. Hot air would be trapped inside and create a mini-environment warm enough to trick exotic fruits and flowers into growing.

Which would you choose to grow?

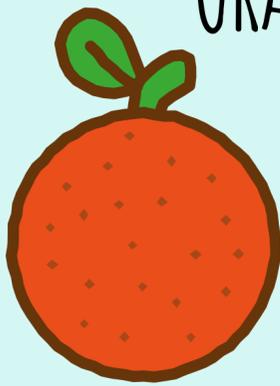


POMEGRANATES

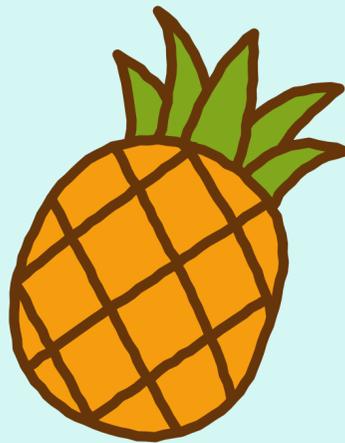


FIGS

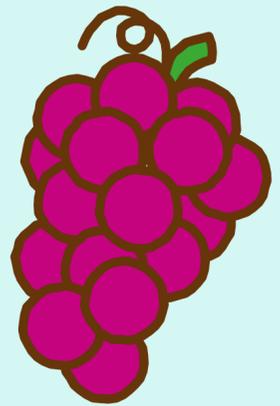
ORANGES



PINEAPPLES



MYRTLES

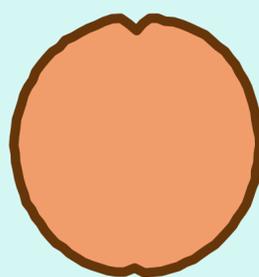


GRAPES



ORCHIDS

The pride and joy of the Rothschilds! At one point, 34 different species of orchids were being grown here.



PEACHES

Would you like an extra adventure?

At this point you can either:

Head up to the Round Pond for a slightly shorter trail (if so, skip ahead 4 pages)

Or if you're up for the adventure, take a little trip to a lost tennis court, a bug hotel and a wildflower meadow.



A

The Lost Tennis Court

NEW BALLS PLEASE!

See the beech trees, so neatly lined up and surrounding us? They were originally a small hedge that marked out a tennis court for the Rothschild family to play games on.



These days it's better suited to a game of imaginary air tennis, making sure the ball stays away from the wild conservation area and the butterflies who love it here.

TELL A STORY

Look on the benches for the beginning of sentences.
Pick one as a family and create a joint story, taking it in turns to add one...
word...
at...
a...
time....

B

Bug Hotel

VACANCIES

Everyone needs somewhere to stay and to sleep, including bugs. Happy bugs make for a happy environment, so it's important they're pampered a bit.

The Bug Hotels at Gunnersbury have been specially built out of materials that all kinds of bugs and insects are happy to spend time in.

DO NOT DISTURB

The bugs in the hotel don't want their beauty sleep interrupted, so please don't go inside the fence.

Instead, why not try very gently lifting or rolling logs and small rocks along the path to see if anyone is living underneath? Afterwards, remember to put everything back as you found it so we don't disturb the bugs' home.



MAGNIFY

Two of the posts along the path have magnifying glasses built in.

Who can find the coolest thing from the park to look at up close (that isn't a bug!)?

YOU COULD TRY SEEDS, SMALL LEAVES, BITS OF BARK... OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY!



Wildflower Meadow

BEFORE HEADING BACK TO THE MAIN TRAIL PATH...

Take a little trip to the other side of the Bug Hotel and visit the **Wildflower Meadow**.

It's only cut once a year (at the end of the summer) so that grasses and wildflowers have the chance to grow tall, flower and make a great home for loads of different insect pollinators, small animals and birds.



DID YOU KNOW?
OVER 97% OF THE UK'S
WILDFLOWER MEADOWS HAVE
BEEN LOST SINCE THE 1930S

Want to find out more?
Our Butterflies, Birds and
Beetles Trail helps you
identify some of the plants
and wildlife in the park.
Pick up a copy at the
museum!

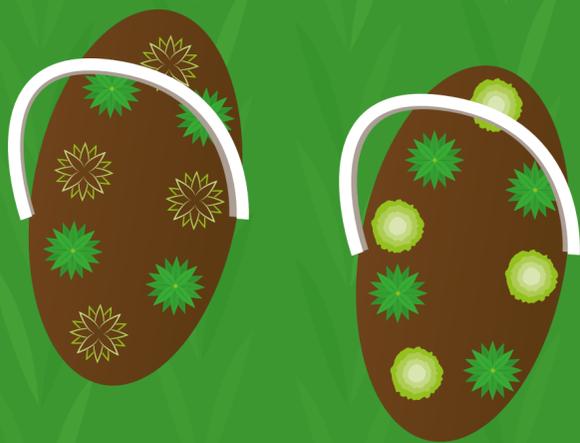
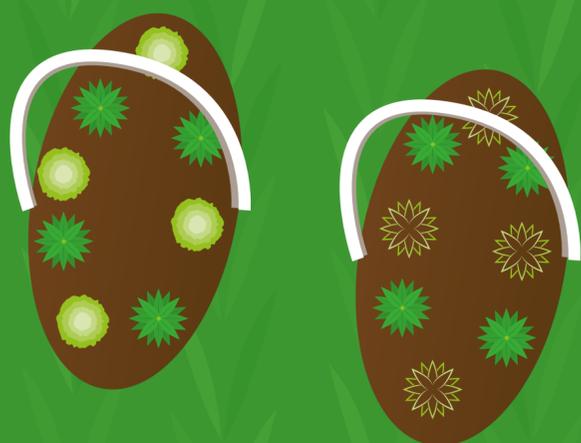


To get to the Round Pond...

...follow the arrows on the map



Keep an eye out for the Rose Baskets, originally designed by Hannah Rothschild in the 1850s or 1860s, with giant handles arching over the top.



BRRRR! ICE HOUSE MOUND

This one's tricky to spot...

Under the small earth mound was the 1800s version of a giant freezer. It stored ice and snow collected from the gardens during the winter, ready for use in the kitchens to keep food fresh.



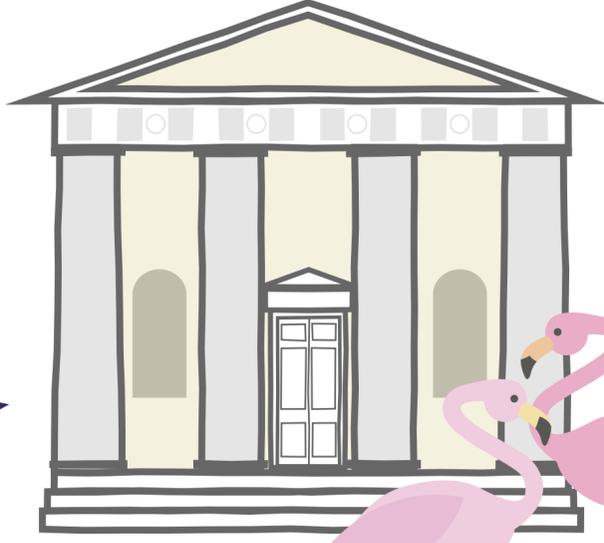
Round Pond

The Round Pond has been here for hundreds of years, surrounded by trees and the perfect size for a rowing boat. It's also a great home to all kinds of wildlife.



Ring-nosed Parakeet

THE TEMPLE
The oldest building still standing at Gunnersbury Park.



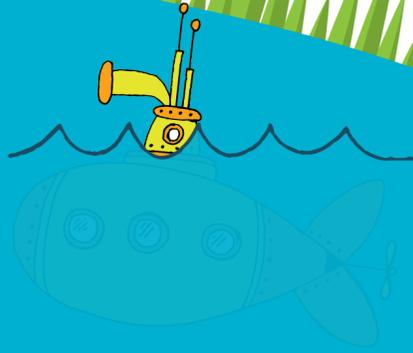
ANY FLAMINGOS?
They used to live here, promise! Look inside the museum to see an old photograph of a family of flamingos standing just here.



Grey Heron



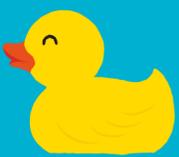
Mute swan



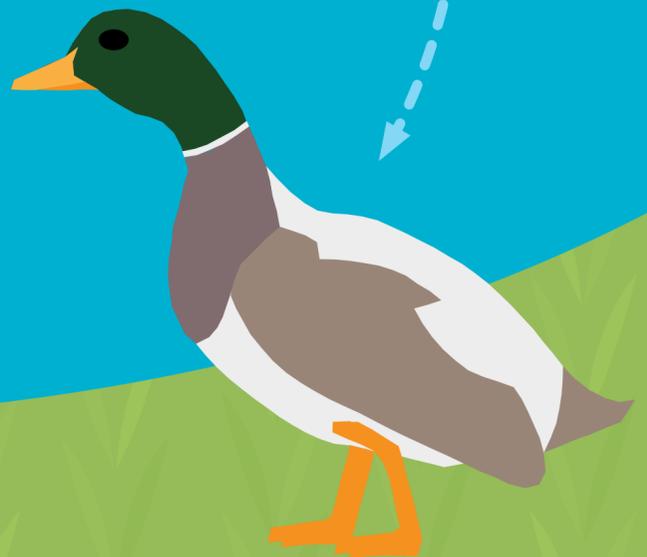
How many different types of birds can you spot on and around the pond today?



Tufted duck



Rubber duck



Mallard (male)

To get to the Italian Garden...

...follow the arrows on the map



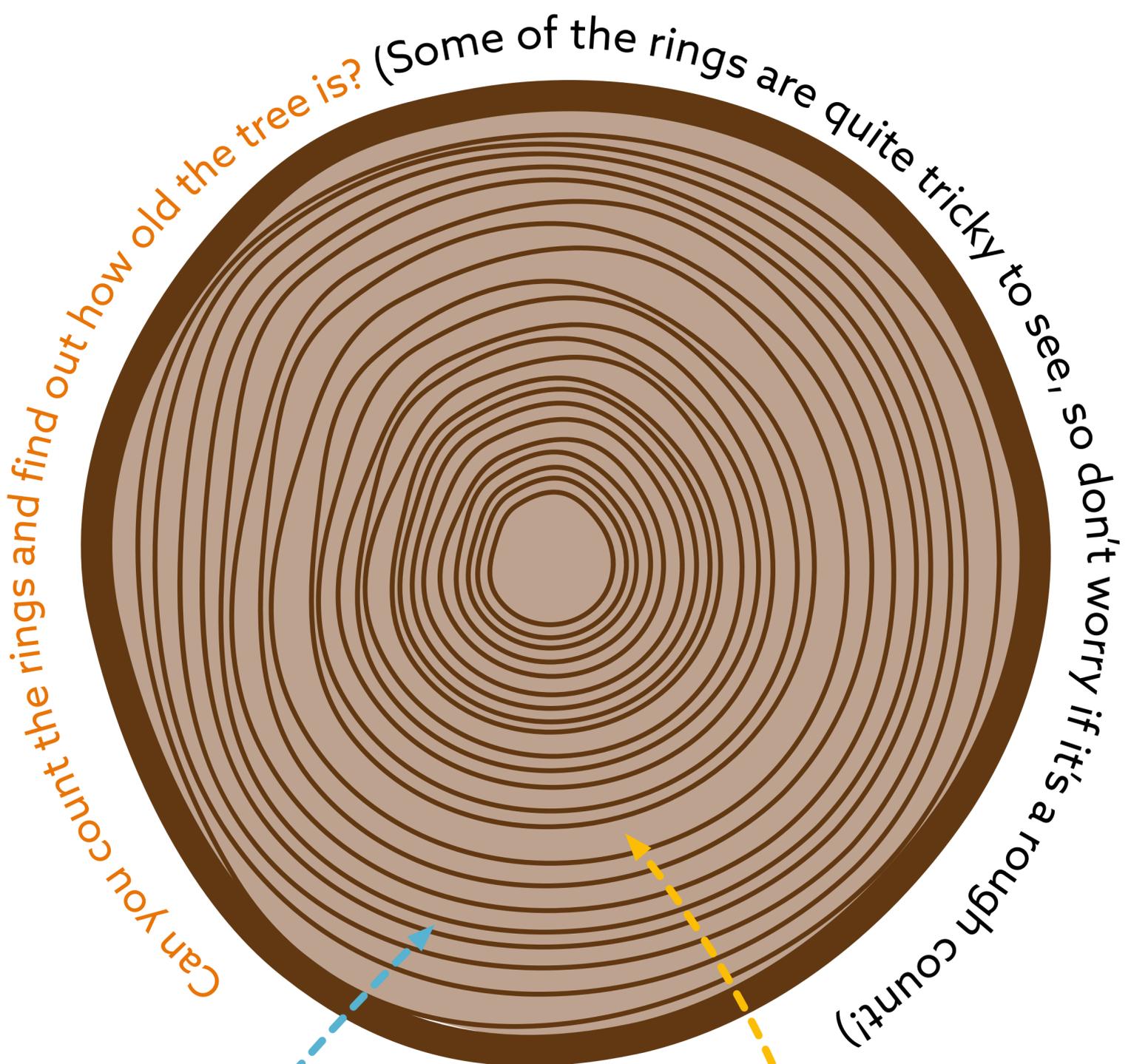
Italian Garden

HOW OLD?!

Surrounding the Italian Garden are tall cedar trees. They were rare and expensive when brought here from the Mediterranean.

To one side of the Temple, you'll find a felled cedar tree that's been cut into sections.

On the ends, you'll see lots of thin rings. Each ring represents one year that the tree was growing here at Gunnersbury, getting bigger and bigger.



DID YOU KNOW?

No two rings are the same: a thick ring shows that the weather was good for growing that year, while a thinner ring shows either colder temperatures or a shortage of water.

To get to the Play Sculptures and Café...

...follow the arrows on the map



What next?

QUICK QUIZ

Which tree contains deadly poison?

Can you name four of the exotic fruits grown in Gunnersbury's glasshouses?

What was the name of the tree that's far older than a T Rex?

PLAY SCULPTURES

Near the café is a series of wooden sculptures you're very welcome to play on. They're all based on objects from Gunnersbury Park Museum and carved from trees that fell naturally in the park.

WANT TO EXPLORE MORE?

There are other family trails to help explore Gunnersbury Park Museum, including the original items that inspired the play sculptures.

Go to visitgunnersbury.org to download them.

CAFÉ?

Time for a nice drink and a sit down?

SHARE YOUR PICS!



@Gunnersbury1



@Gunnersbury1



@gunnersburyparkmuseum