

## Zen gardens

### Research and design a Japanese Zen garden

**Aim:** Research the design, history and symbolism of Zen gardens; create a garden design



Zen gardens

**Resources:**

Dry sand, trays, stones of various sizes and shapes, twigs; table fork to rake the sand.

- A Zen garden is designed to evoke feelings of tranquillity, calmness and peace, with associated mental as well as psychological health benefits.
- Rocks and gravel or sand are used to recreate the essence of nature. The designs are simple and use only a small palette of materials.
- Swirling patterns are raked into the sand or gravel to represent water.



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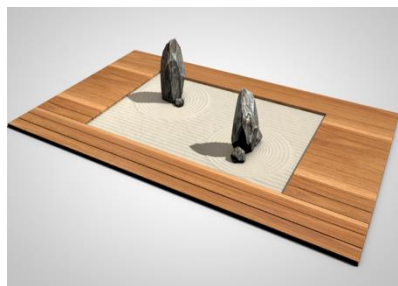
Compare and contrast with the Paradise Gardens – opposite - half the class could research and model one type and the other half the other type.

Design a plan for a Zen garden, to include key important features, and then make a model, using the resources outlined above.

**Key vocabulary:** ritual, meditation, Shintoism

**Success Criteria**

- ✓ I can use written material and the internet to find facts about Japanese Zen gardens
- ✓ I can describe the features and meaning of the features in a Japanese Zen garden
- ✓ I can design and make a model Japanese Zen garden



## Paradise gardens

### Research and design an Islamic paradise garden

**Aim:** Research the design, history and symbolism of Islamic paradise gardens; create a garden design



paradise gardens

**Resources:**

Junk modelling materials and pruned plant material from trees and shrubs in the school grounds.

- Paradise gardens are formal, symmetrical and often enclosed.
- They are usually rectangular, with four quadrants divided by water rills and a pond at the centre.
- Fruit trees and flowers are planted in the quadrants.
- Symbolism is evident throughout and will engage pupils in their research.



Compare and contrast with the Zen gardens – opposite - half the class could research and model one type and the other half the other type.

**More springboards:**

- Religious Education Learning Springboards: Islam
- Use this activity to focus on pattern, symmetry and sequencing in maths.

**Key vocabulary:** symmetry, prayer, meditation

**Success Criteria**

- ✓ I can use written material and the internet to find facts about Islamic paradise gardens
- ✓ I can describe the features and meaning of the features in a paradise garden
- ✓ I can design and make a model Islamic paradise garden

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