

Garden of Devotion Instructions and Answer Sheet for Teachers

Gardens by the Bay Avatar:

- Landscape Designer

Level/ Subject(s):

- Upper Primary/ CCE, Social Studies, Science, Art

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how plants influence Indian culture and traditions
- Recognise the significance, features and uses of plants
- Learn how to design a themed garden

Activity 1 – What makes a Garden?

Why do you think the landscape designer of the Indian Garden chose to feature elephant and horse sculptures and the kolam in the garden? Pen your thoughts down in the box provided below.

Since the four themed gardens at Heritage Gardens feature plants that are intricately linked to Singapore’s culture, showcasing cultural and religious icons of Indian culture serves to complement the plants in the Indian Garden. The hardscape is just as important as the softscape in bringing across the gardens’ theme and message to visitors.

Activity 2(a) – The Sacred Tree

Determine which of the following statements about the Banyan Tree are true or false. Circle either ‘true’ or ‘false’ for each statement.

i	It is also known as the ‘wish-fulfilling’ tree.	True / False
ii	It has spiritual and religious significance, but no known uses.	True False
iii	It is sacred to the Indians, representing eternal life.	True/ False

Activity 2(b) – A Divine Gift

Match the parts of the Toddy Palm with the correct uses.

Parts		Uses
Leaves	—————	For construction
Young Flowers	—————	For roof covers, weaving of mats, baskets, hats, umbrellas, etc.
Stem	—————	For obtaining a sugary sap called ‘toddy’

Activity 3 – Design your own Indian Garden

Now that we’ve examined the hardscape and softscape of the Indian Garden at Gardens by the Bay in detail, it’s time for you to design your very own Indian Garden!

Decide where you’d position the various sculptures and plants we have looked at today in your own Indian Garden, and include other elements you think are vital in illustrating the intricate relationship between plants and Indian culture to visitors. Use the box

below to sketch your garden. Include labels to indicate where the various features and plants are.

The above is an open-ended question. Accept any response that includes the various sculptures and plants covered in the sharing, and see that labels have been used to indicate where these are.