

## City Gardens

In a garden there are endless possibilities for fun games and activities. You can play hide and seek, see how high you can go on a swing, climb a tree or even have a picnic in the summer. You can also grow beautiful flowers or delicious fruit and vegetables.

Not everyone lives in a house with a garden. In big cities, people sometimes live in flats or apartment blocks. This is why cities often have green spaces, so that people without gardens can get fresh air and exercise.

### When did the first city gardens appear?

In London, the first city gardens appeared about 200 years ago. Gardens meant that everyone, not just the very rich, could enjoy being outside. The first city gardens in Mexico were built around 700 years earlier. These small Mexican gardens or *chinampa* floated on shallow lakes and were used as places to grow food. The only problem was you needed a boat to get to them!



Today cities are often busy and crowded places so it can be difficult to find space for gardens. Some cities solve this problem by putting them in very interesting places!

### Train Track Garden

Tokyo, in Japan, is very crowded as over 36 million people live there! That is four times more people than live in London! It is difficult to grow enough food to feed all these people as there is not enough space. A train company has solved this problem by growing salad in small buildings underneath train tracks! They believe their salad is cleaner because it is grown in water not soil, but one problem is the lack of sunlight underneath the tracks. This means that the plants need lots of light from lamps to help them to grow!

### A Rubbish Garden

At the Kings Cross Skip Garden, flowers and vegetables are planted in large, empty rubbish containers called skips. People can visit the garden to learn about plants, do some gardening or try some home-grown food in the café. To make sure nothing from the garden is thrown away, everything is made out of recycled materials. For example, if a plant pot breaks, it is made into something else! This keeps the garden clean and tidy.



### Singapore Super Trees

People sometimes call Singapore a 'city in a garden' because there are so many gardens there. One of the most famous is the Garden by the Bay. Here visitors can see giant metal trees called 'supertrees'. The 'supertrees' are between 25 and 50 metres tall, that is half as long as a football field! They are not living trees but have been built as homes for over 200,000 plants! Bridges connect the trees together so that visitors can walk high up in the trees and see the flowers growing around them.



Isn't it amazing to think of all the different gardens in the world? With so many wonderful green spaces around us, there is no excuse not to spend more time outdoors!

