

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

This Month's Theme: Santa Barbara's Japanese Gardens



The Tea House at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Japanese Garden Tea House

At the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden you can see an unusual small garden. It is designed in Japanese style with California native plants and it surrounds a Japanese Tea House. This garden is very different from the Japanese Garden at Lotusland. The little Tea House was built in 1949 in Kyoto, Japan and then it was shipped in pieces to California as a gift for a man who lived in Santa Barbara. Over the last few years the Tea House was moved from its original garden in Hope Ranch and was re-built at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden so that it can be seen by everyone.

Japanese Tea Houses are places where people can be at one with nature. They are always built in places of natural beauty and so the Botanic Garden is a good place for this little house. **Tea Ceremonies** are held in Tea Houses. During a Tea Ceremony, people drink special green tea and they experience peace and tranquility. Special tools (or utensils) are used during the ceremony. Japanese "**Ikebana**" flower arrangements decorate the house for the ceremony.

Japan is one of the many countries from which people immigrated to the United States. Japanese gardens and tea houses help us to understand and connect with the cultural history of our people.



Some of the utensils used for the Tea Ceremony.



Interior of the Tea House

Santa Barbara's Sister Cities

Santa Barbara has several sister cities. They include:

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Toba, Japan | Dingle, Ireland | Puerto Vallarta, Mexico |
| Weihai, China | San Juan, Phillipines | Palma de Mallorca, Spain |
| Yalta, Ukraine | | |

To learn more about these cities, visit the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Website (www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/sb_sister_cities).

Toba, on the island of Honshu in Japan became Santa Barbara's Sister City in 1966. From time to time there have been exchange visits. People from Santa Barbara have visited Toba and people from Toba have come to Santa Barbara. Toba sounds like a very beautiful city and, like Santa Barbara, it is visited by many tourists. It is on the coast and has beaches and a large aquarium. Toba is where the first cultured pearls were made. This city has a dolphin fountain which was a gift from Santa Barbara.

The Toba Sister City group supported moving the Tea House to the Botanic Garden.

Traditional Elements of Japanese Gardens

Japanese gardens were originally temple gardens meant to cleanse the mind. Lanterns were placed in front of shrines to burn incense, but eventually were placed for decoration only. Traditional elements of Japanese gardens include water to represent the sea, stones to represent the beach, hills to represent mountains, and trees that are trained to remain small and graceful in a method known as *niwaki*. All should look like part of the natural environment. Animal sculptures of herons, turtles, and frogs - symbols of long life and good luck - are also found in Japanese gardens, and certain flowers or plants are used to symbolize human virtues or concepts.

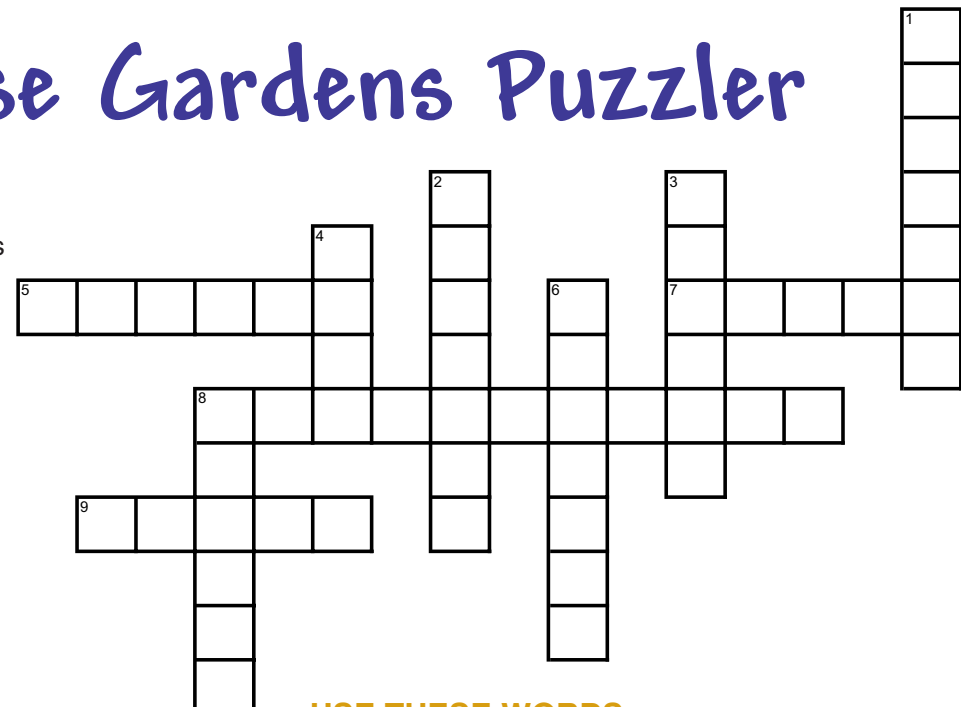
Japanese Gardens Puzzler

ACROSS

- Tall, strong, flexible grass used for food and building
- Large aquatic flower that symbolizes purity
- Traditional Japanese ritual held in Tea House
- Large graceful water bird

DOWN

- Burns with fragrance
- Made of stone and used for burning incense
- Tree with weeping branches
- Sister city in Japan
- Japanese flower arranging
- Reptile with hard shell



USE THESE WORDS:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| BAMBOO | HERON | IKEBANA |
| INCENSE | LANTERN | LOTUS |
| TOBA | TURTLE | WILLOW |
| TEA CEREMONY | | |



Weeping willow trees gracefully line the banks of Lotusland's Japanese garden pond.

Japanese Garden Plants

Plant

- Azalea
- Bamboo
- Camelia
- Flowering Plum
- Pine
- Rhododendron
- Willow
- Ferns
- Water lily
- Lotus
- Wisteria

Human Virtue or Concept

- Brotherhood
- Strength & flexibility
- Happiness
- Courage & chivalry
- Long life & endurance
- Love
- Friendship
- Prosperity
- Companionship
- Purity
- Sadness



Stone lantern with specially sculpted Japanese maples on each side

Page by Sally Isaacson, Joan Evans and Don Matsumoto, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Connie Buxton, Ganna Walska Lotusland.

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