

# Sydney Gardens Bath Tree Trail for Kids



**SYDNEY  
GARDENS  
BATH**

 **COMMUNITY  
FUND**

 **Heritage  
Fund**

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives



# Sydney Gardens Tree Trail for Kids

Sydney Gardens were created over 200 years ago in 1795. They are one of Britain's best remaining Georgian Pleasure Gardens. They were called Pleasure Gardens as it was a place where people came to have fun!

People could get lost in a maze, swing on giant swings, or visit a 'Sham Castle' (you might spot one today in the new play area!). They could ride horses around the perimeter, listen to music, watch a firework display and see some of the first hot air balloons take off!

Georgians wanted to create landscapes in a naturalistic style, that were to be enjoyed and explored. Plants and animals were collected from all around the world to be displayed.

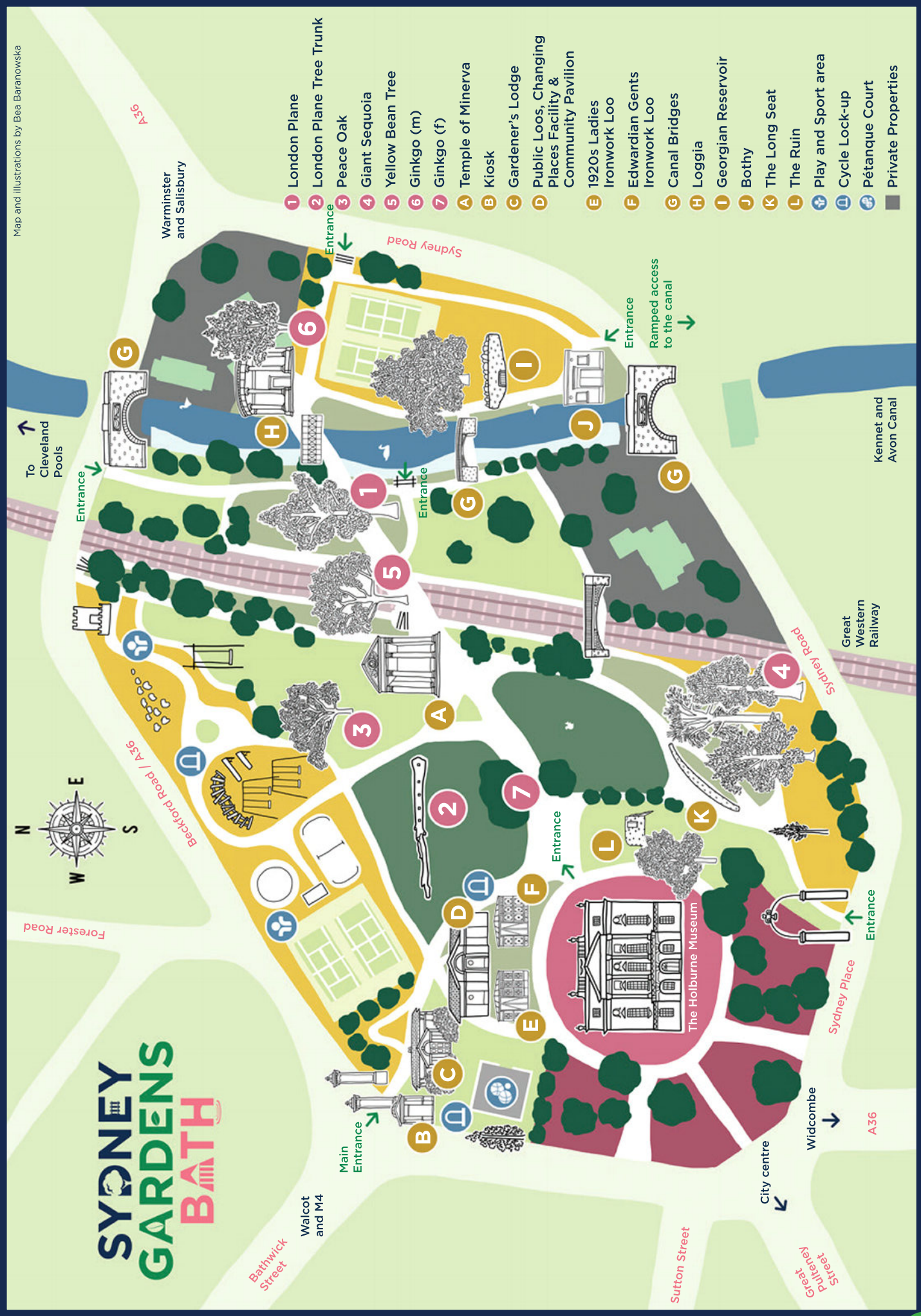
Some of these fantastic, old and 'exotic' trees are still here today. Step onto our trail and discover their fascinating stories.

On the next page you will find a map with the trees numbered. The route criss-crosses the park. At the back of the trail you will find a page with the 'seeds' from each tree. Can you guess which seed goes with which tree?





# SYDNEY GARDENS BATH



- 1 London Plane
- 2 London Plane Tree Trunk
- 3 Peace Oak
- 4 Giant Sequoia
- 5 Yellow Bean Tree
- 6 Ginkgo (m)
- 7 Ginkgo (f)
- A Temple of Minerva
- B Kiosk
- C Gardener's Lodge
- D Public Loos, Changing Places Facility & Community Pavilion
- E 1920s Ladies Ironwork Loo
- F Edwardian Gents Ironwork Loo
- G Canal Bridges
- H Loggia
- I Georgian Reservoir
- J Bothy
- K The Long Seat
- L The Ruin
- ⊕ Play and Sport area
- ⊖ Cycle Lock-up
- ⊙ Pétanque Court
- Private Properties



1  
on the  
map

# The London Plane – Pollution Reducer!

**Origin** A hybrid of the Oriental Plane and the American Sycamore.

**Deciduous**  or **Evergreen**

## 5 Adjectives to describe the tree

Think about; size, shape, patterns and texture of bark.

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

## Seeds

Can you see the seeds produced by this tree? Or can you guess which seed it is by looking at the key on page 14?

*Clue: spherical*

## Leaves

Can you find a leaf from this tree?  
If it's winter and your tree is deciduous you may have to look on the ground.

**Copy your leaf, draw around it or make a leaf rubbing.**



**Trees are AMAZING but the London Plane is extra special**

Notice how tall it is and if it has branches.

**Describe the bark** .....

.....  
.....

**Did you know?** The London Plane captures pollution through the fibres on its leaves and its bark, filtering out particles and dust produced by traffic. The bark then peels off, discarding the pollution!

**Why do you think this is important in cities?**

.....  
.....



**Fun Fact** The seeds of the London Plane can be ground down and used as itching powder!

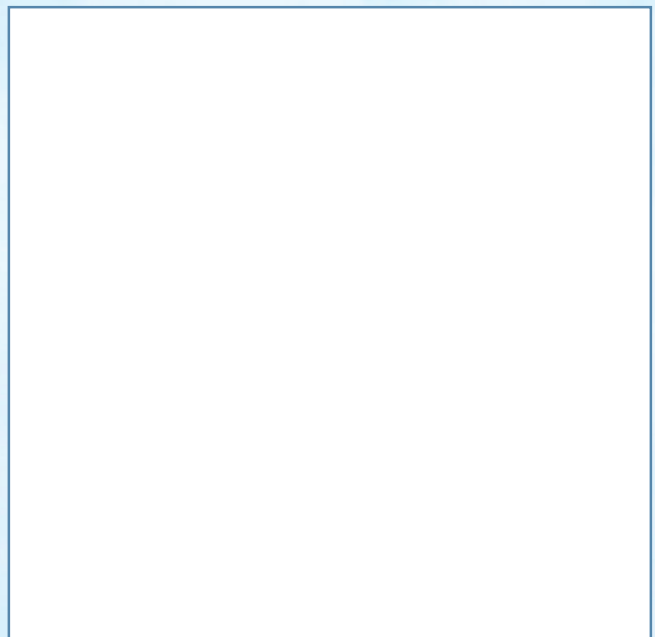
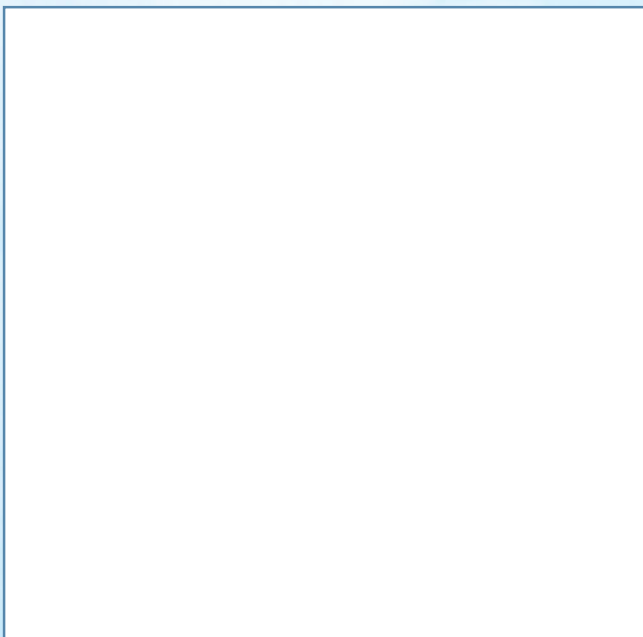
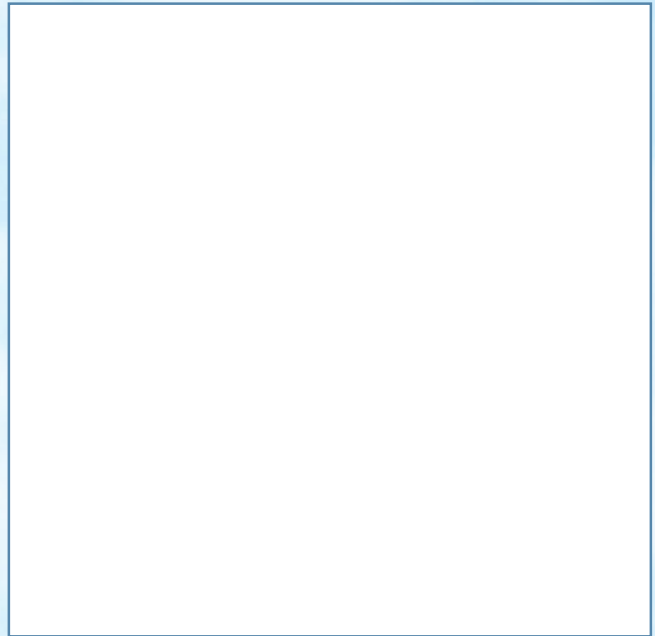
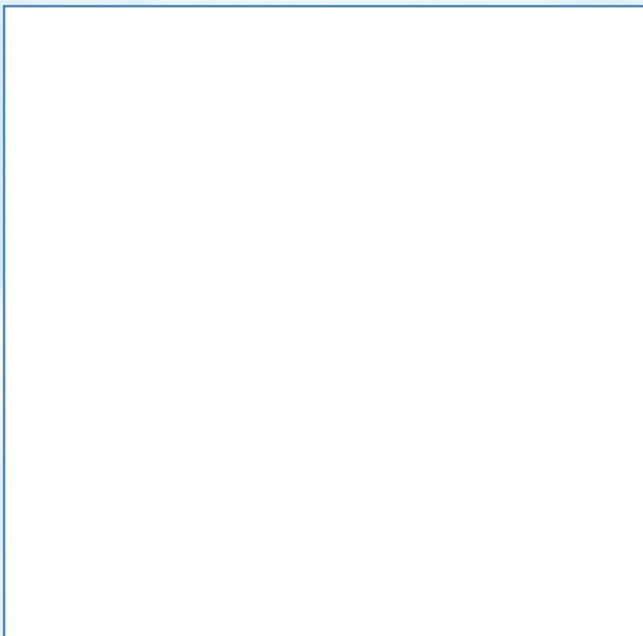


**Now can you find the London Plane tree trunk marked 2 on the map?**

This tree had to be felled because the inside of the trunk had been hollowed out by fungus. You can see the stump where it was cut. It has lost its bark now. It has 5 'windows' carved into it.

What other ways can we help to reduce pollution? **Draw your suggestions in the windows below.**

**You can also design a display for one of the 'windows' on the trunk.**



3  
on the  
map

# Peace Oak, Golden Oak 'Concordia'

Origin Belgium.

Deciduous  or Evergreen

## 5 Adjectives to describe the tree

Think about; size, shape, patterns and texture of bark.

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

## Seeds

Can you see the seeds produced by this tree? Or can you guess which seed it is by looking at the key on page 14?

Clue: This seed comes in its own cup

## Leaves

Can you find a leaf from this tree?

If it's winter and your tree is deciduous you may have to look on the ground.

**Copy your leaf, draw around it or make a leaf rubbing.**



## An Oak with a difference

Oaks are widely thought to be native to the UK but this one has a different story. It originates from the town of Flanders in Belgium. It was planted in 1919 over 100 years ago at the end of WW1. Many men died fighting in the fields of Flanders. This tree was chosen to remember those men who fought and lost their lives in WW1.



### Interesting Fact

Wounded soldiers would come to the gardens to recuperate and enjoy the fresh air.

**Why do you think Sydney Gardens might have helped these men?**

.....

.....

.....

The Oak was planted as a positive message to all who walk in the gardens of the importance of peace.

**Have your say!**

What positive message would you give to children of the future?

**Write or draw your idea on the oak leaf below.**





**4**  
on the  
map

# Giant Sequoia

Origin North West America.

Deciduous  or Evergreen

## 5 Adjectives to describe the tree

Think about; size, shape, patterns and texture of bark.

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

## Seeds

Can you see the seeds produced by this tree? Or can you guess which seed it is by looking at the key on page 14?

Clue: This tree is considered a conifer.

## Leaves

Can you find a leaf from this tree?

If it's winter and your tree is deciduous you may have to look on the ground.

**Copy your leaf, draw around it or make a leaf rubbing.**



Did you know the Sequoia is named after Sequoyah, a Native American from the Cherokee Nation? He created an alphabet using syllables known as a syllabary.

**Touch the bark, how would you describe the texture?**

Rough

Woolly

Spongy

Slimy



**Fun Fact** The bark of this tree is designed with air pockets to protect the tree against wildfires, common in its native land. In fact, the trees couldn't survive without fire as their cones need the fires to heat them, so they can open and disperse seeds!





## Work out the height and age of this Giant Sequoia!

The Giant Sequoia is one of the tallest trees in the world, the tallest recorded is over 83 metres! This variety of tree also has one of the longest life expectancies. The oldest recorded was over 3000 years old!

### Challenge 1: Estimate the height of this Sequoia

**Step 1:** Find a stick approximately the length of your arm from your shoulder to your wrist (don't include your hand!).

**Step 2:** Hold the stick out in front of you with one hand at the base of the stick.

**Step 3:** Line the base of the stick up with the base of the tree and the top of the stick with the top of the tree (you may need to move closer or further away from the tree to do this).

**Step 4:** Once in position take approximate metre strides towards the tree counting as you go.

**Step 5:** When you get to the tree the number of strides is the number of metres in height of your tree.

**Estimated height of Sequoia = \_\_\_\_\_ metres**

### Challenge 2: Estimate the tree's age!

On average trees grow 1 metre every 50 years and a child's arm span is 1m.

**Step 1** Measure the tree trunk's girth by finding out how many children holding hands it takes to go around it. Is it the span of 2 children, 2.5? etc.

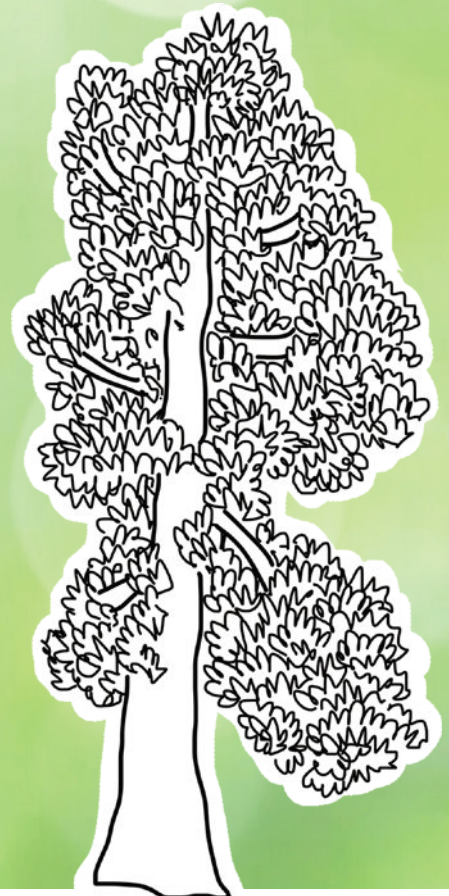
**Step 2** Multiply the number of children by 50.

**Step 3** You will have an approximate age for the tree!

**Check** The tree was planted around 1853.  
Can you work out if that matches your estimate?



Sequoyah with the syllabary.



2  
on the  
map

# Yellow Bean Tree, *Catalpa ovata*

Origin China.

Deciduous  or Evergreen

## 5 Adjectives to describe the tree

Think about; size, shape, patterns and texture of bark.

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

## Seeds

Can you see the seeds produced by this tree? Or can you guess which seed it is by looking at the key on page 14?

Clue: *Is in the name.*

## Leaves

Can you find a leaf from this tree?

If it's winter and your tree is deciduous you may have to look on the ground.

**Copy your leaf, draw around it or make a leaf rubbing.**



This tree is known as a 'champion tree' as it is the largest specimen recorded in the UK!

**Fun Fact** Fossilised seeds of this tree's ancestors have been found in fossils in rocks in the USA. This is a long way from China. How do you think they travelled?



**The Catalpa has also travelled to space...** Wood from the Catalpa has been used for thousands of years in China to make a stringed instrument called a Guqin.





NASA sent a record with music from this ancient instrument into outer space!  
The track recorded was a song of friendship in China called 'flowing waters'.

## Challenge

**Why do you think NASA has sent music into outer space?**

---

**What type of music, or song do you think should be sent into space to represent humans today? Why?**

---

---

---

---

(NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration)



**6&7**  
on the  
map

# Maidenhair Fern, Ginkgo biloba

**Origin** China.

**Deciduous**  or **Evergreen**

## 5 Adjectives to describe the tree

Think about; size, shape, patterns and texture of bark.

1

2

3

4

5

## Seeds

Ginkgo trees are either male or female.

**No 6 on the map:** the Ginkgo up at the top of the park, by the Loggia, is a male tree which produces flowers that release pollen to fertilise the fruits. **Is it in season?**

**No 7 on the map:** the Ginkgo at the bottom of the central path is a female tree and which produces small fruits that look a bit like almonds. **Can you spot any?**

## Leaves

Can you find a leaf from this tree?

In the summer the leaves are green, and in the autumn, they are golden yellow like in the photo here.

**Copy your leaf, draw around it or make a leaf rubbing.**



**Fun Fact** This is one of the world's oldest living tree species known as a 'living fossil'. It existed when dinosaurs walked the earth. When the fruit from female trees drop they smell of vomit or poo!



Some botanists think this was to attract dinosaurs to eat them!

## Georgians and Chinese Design

This is another tree that originates from China. Chinese style was very fashionable in Georgian times. Can you see the canal bridges influenced by Chinese design?

This Ginkgo leaf has been painted with an old man encircled by the Chinese word 'shou' meaning 100th Birthday! Perhaps this was a gift?





## Challenge

The leaves of the Ginkgo tree are similar to the shape of Chinese fans which were often adorned with pictures of nature. Take a seat up in the Loggia by the Ginkgo tree (6), take in the view and give yourself time to draw a design influenced by something from the gardens.



**Congratulations! You have completed the tree trail, come back soon.**

# Seeds

Each of these 'seeds' belongs to one of the trees on the trail, can you guess which?

Match the seeds A - E with the right tree!



A



B



C



D



E



E



Improving People's Lives

A = Oak B = Catalpa C = Giant Sequoia D = London Plane E = Ginkgo

This learning resource was created by artist educators Lucia Harley, Aimee Corbett and Charlotte Hosford, and Community Ranger Sue Palmer, as part of the Sydney Gardens Project, a National Lottery Heritage Fund and B&NES Council funded restoration project (2019 - 22). Tree drawings by Bea Baranowska