

What is a garden?

‘A piece of ground adjoining a house, used for growing flowers, fruit, or vegetables.’



LO: To understand how English garden design has developed through history



Timeline of English gardens

First Gardens *43CE*

Medieval – Monastic Gardens *5th-15th Centuries*

Tudor Knot Gardens *1485 - 1550*

Elizabethan Gardens *1550 – 1600*

Capability Brown Landscape Gardening *1715-1783*

Victorian Gardens *1830 -1900*

World War Gardens *1940s*

Modern Gardens *Present day*

First Gardens in England

The earliest examples of gardens were made by the Romans after their invasion in 43CE.



The Romans built extraordinary palaces accompanied by Palace gardens. The gardens had great influence from the East Mediterranean, combining hedges, walls and fences with orchards and colonnaded verandas.

It's not until the middle ages that the English Gardens reappeared because the Anglo Saxons didn't have the passion for gardening that the Romans had. They only used the land for food and animal care.



Medieval 5th-15th centuries

Monastic Gardens

Monasteries took advantage of the 'garden'; and often had both kitchen and herb gardens to provide both food and medicine. Early Monastic established followed ground plans that derived from the Roman villas. This involved colonnaded courtyards and cloister gardens.



Cloister gardens were enclosed with a fountain or statue at the centre.



Medieval castles occasionally made room for courtyard gardens. These usually consisted of raised flower beds with paths running through them. Seats were improvised and made from turf. Gardens were often enclosed with wattle fences and quickthorn hedges.

Tudor Knot Gardens 1485 -1550

Tudor gardens were a lot more proportional than those of the Medieval period, they had a lot of influence from Italy. Gardens mirrored the alignment of the houses keeping everything rather uniform and in line.

Quick Fact: Henry VIII had a particular liking for sundials in gardens.



Gardening under King Henry VII became a Kingly pass time once King Henry VIII was crowned king in 1491. Henry claimed that any sign of ostentation was a threat to the crown.

The Tudors most popular design was the Knot Garden.

Knot gardens consisted of geometric or square patterns of hedges filled with flowers, hedges and herbs. They were designed to be viewed from a higher level such as a raised walk to allow you to view the whole pattern. The designs were often taken from carpets, wood carvings and embroidery. Coloured gravel was used to separate the areas of planting.



Thomas Wolsey's Hampton Court Palace was one of King Henry VIII's favourite places. Raised beds, mazes, turf seats and fountains were some of the wonderful designs that featured in the Tudor gardens along with many designs inherited from the Medieval gardens.



Elizabethan Gardens 1550-1600

The cottage garden was a distinct style that used informal design, traditional materials, dense planting, and a mixture of ornamental and edible plants.

Homely and functional gardens were connected to working-class cottages and contrasted with the rigorously maintained estate gardens of the stately homes with their formal designs and structure.



The earliest cottage gardens were more practical than today's, with emphasis on vegetables and herbs, fruit trees, perhaps a beehive, and even livestock. Flowers, used to fill spaces, gradually became more dominant. The traditional cottage garden was usually enclosed, perhaps with a rose-bowered gateway.



Landscape Gardening

Capability Brown 1715-1783

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown changed the face of eighteenth century England, designing country estates and mansions, moving hills and making flowing lakes and serpentine rivers, a magical world of green.

He designed the gardens and landscapes of many stately houses and was the preferred designer for royal estates



Brown's style derived from the two practical principles of comfort and elegance. On the one hand, there was a determination that everything should work, and that a landscape should provide for every need of the great house. On the other, his landscapes had to look elegant.



While his designs have great variety, they also appear seamless owing to his use of the sunk fence or 'ha-ha' to confuse the eye into believing that different pieces of parkland, though managed and stocked quite differently, were one. His expansive lakes, at different levels and apparently unconnected, formed a single body of water as if a river through the landscape, that like the parkland itself, ran on indefinitely.

Long channels, called ridings, through his forests were used to draw the eye.



Victorian Gardens 1830-1900

The age of the industrial revolution also brought with it the boom in gardening. The interest in gardening exploded and for the first time authorities felt the need to provide extensive public gardens. It was hoped that these gardens would improve the etiquette and manners of the lower classes.

Gardens features massed beds of flowers, intricate designs and beautiful bright colour from plants from all corners of the world. Rockeries made a firm appearance as expeditions to mountains increased.

The true
cornerstone
of the
Victorian
gardens was
order and
neatness,
with a
pristinely
kept lawn.



Victorian Plant Collectors transformed the gardens of the wealthy. These men and women travelled the world bringing back the beautiful plants from all over the world. Glasshouses and orangeries were built to allow these exotic plants to thrive in our cooler climate.

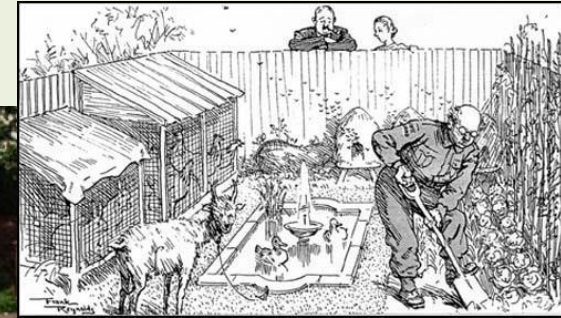


World War Gardens 1940s

Before the Second World War Britain imported approximately 55 million tonnes each year.

Dig for Victory was a campaign launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1940 to help combat food shortages in Britain by promoting the planting of allotments in gardens and on public land. Lawns and flower-beds were turned into vegetable gardens. Over ten million instructional leaflets were distributed to the British people. The propaganda campaign was successful and it was estimated that over 1,400,000 people had allotments.

People were encouraged to keep chickens, goats and pigs too.



Modern Gardens

Nowadays, gardens are more varied. Many people live in towns and cities, so roof gardens, balcony planting and courtyard gardens are common.

Where room allows, gardens tend to have open lawned areas for leisure activities – barbecues, sports and play as well as herbaceous borders. Patio areas and hard landscaping also feature. A growth in healthy living has also led to more vegetables being grown in raised beds or on allotments.



Create a 2 page spread (fact file) about
how gardens have developed through
time in Britain

Include title, subheadings, key facts, drawings.

Which was your favourite garden? – can you
design a garden in that style

Plenary Gardens in Leicester

