

Traditional Japanese Gardens

Reading Worksheet — Elementary | tahricteaches.com

Japanese gardens are very **peaceful** and **beautiful** places. People in Japan have been making these special gardens for more than 1,000 years. These gardens are not like parks where children can play. Instead, they are quiet places where people can think and feel **calm**.



In traditional Japanese gardens, you will see many different things. There are usually **rocks**, **water**, and **green** plants everywhere. The rocks are not just thrown around randomly. Garden makers **carefully** place each rock in exactly the right **place**. Some rocks represent mountains, and others represent islands in the ocean.

Water is very **important** in these gardens. Sometimes there are small ponds with **fish** swimming in them. Other gardens have tiny streams that make a **soft** sound as the water flows over the rocks. Even when there is no real water, garden makers use sand and small stones to look like water. They rake the sand in **beautiful** patterns that look like waves.

The plants in Japanese gardens are chosen very carefully too. You might see pine trees, bamboo, and moss growing on the rocks. The **garden** changes with each season. In **spring**, cherry trees bloom with **pink** flowers. In autumn, the leaves turn **red** and **yellow**. Even in winter, the garden looks beautiful covered with **white** snow.

When people visit these gardens, they walk slowly along stone paths. They stop to look at each **view** and think about life. Traditional Japanese gardens teach us that **nature** can help us feel peaceful and **happy**. These gardens show us how to find beauty in **simple** things like rocks, water, and plants.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. peaceful _____ | a. having great value or meaning |
| 2. beautiful _____ | b. easy to understand; not complex |
| 3. carefully _____ | c. something you can see |
| 4. important _____ | d. nice to look at |
| 5. garden _____ | e. feeling joy or pleasure |
| 6. nature _____ | f. a place where plants grow |
| 7. simple _____ | g. the world of plants and animals |
| 8. place _____ | h. a location or area |
| 9. view _____ | i. quiet and calm |
| 10. happy _____ | j. with attention and care |

B. True or False

1. Japanese gardens have been made for more than 1,000 years. ____
2. Children often play games in traditional Japanese gardens. ____
3. Rocks in these gardens are placed randomly without planning. ____
4. Water makes soft sounds in some Japanese gardens. ____
5. Garden makers sometimes use sand to look like water. ____
6. All Japanese gardens have real ponds with fish. ____
7. Plants in these gardens are chosen carefully. ____
8. The gardens only look beautiful in spring and summer. ____
9. People walk quickly through these gardens to see everything fast. ____

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: peaceful, rocks, water, spring, nature

1. Japanese gardens are very _____ places where people can think.
2. Garden makers place each _____ in exactly the right place.
3. The sound of _____ flowing over rocks is very soft and calm.
4. In _____, cherry trees bloom with beautiful pink flowers.
5. These gardens teach us that _____ can help us feel happy.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. How long have people in Japan been making gardens?
2. What do rocks in Japanese gardens represent?
3. How do garden makers create the appearance of water without using real water?
4. What happens to the garden in different seasons?
5. Why do people walk slowly in these gardens?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to visit a Japanese garden? Why or why not?
2. What makes you feel peaceful and calm?
3. Do you have a favorite place in nature? Describe it.

Answer Key

Traditional Japanese Gardens — Teacher Reference Only

A. Vocabulary: 1-i, 2-d, 3-j, 4-a, 5-f, 6-g, 7-b, 8-h, 9-c, 10-e

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-T, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-peaceful, 2-rocks, 3-water, 4-spring, 5-nature

D. Comprehension:

1. People in Japan have been making gardens for more than 1,000 years.
2. Some rocks represent mountains, and others represent islands in the ocean.
3. They use sand and small stones, raking the sand in patterns that look like waves.
4. In spring, cherry trees bloom. In autumn, leaves turn red and yellow. In winter, the garden is covered with snow.
5. They walk slowly to look at each view and think about life, finding peace in the beauty of the garden.