

Instructions for Educators & Chaperones

The Getty Villa

Plant Myths

This instruction sheet will help you guide your students at the Getty Villa as they work on the worksheet attached on the following pages.

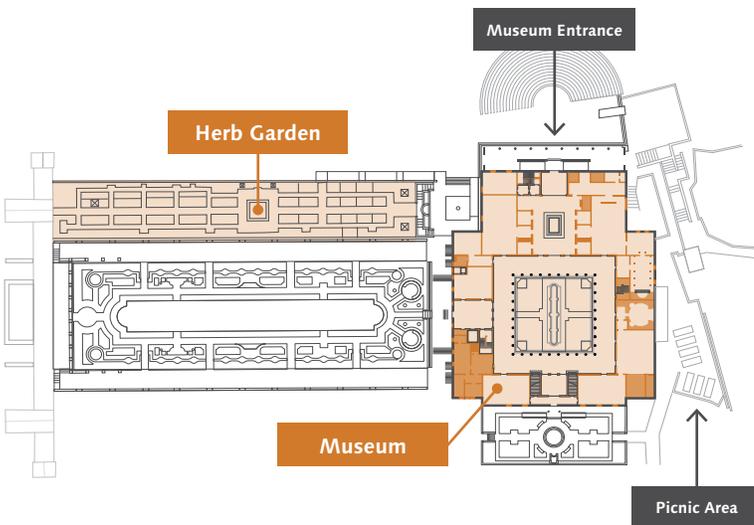
GOALS> TIPS>

- To learn about how ancient people used plants.
- To explore the roles of plants in ancient mythology.
- Briefly look over the activity before beginning and think about where you will need to take the students.
- Ask the students questions and be an active leader!
- Be flexible! If one gallery is occupied, work on another part of the activity first and then return when the gallery is free.
- These activities DO NOT have to be completed in any particular order.

OUTDOORS

PLANTS: can be found in the **Herb Garden**.

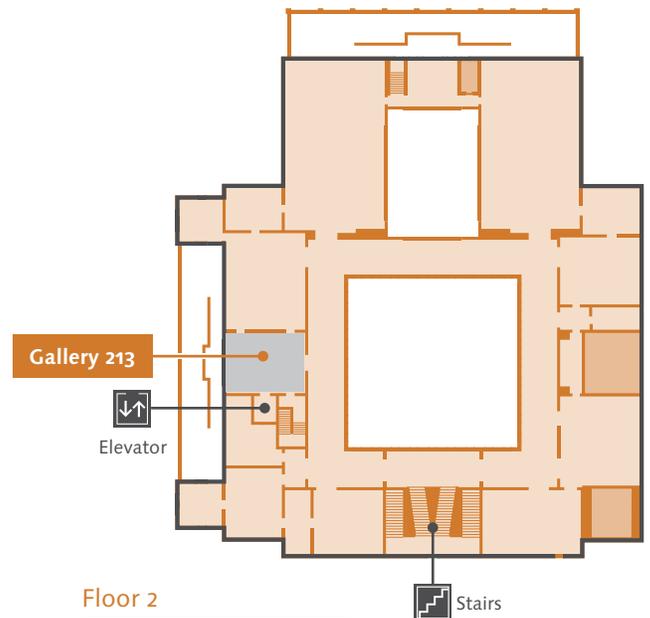
MYTHS: This activity requires students to read a large amount of information, so find a quiet place in the gardens where the students can sit.



Floor 1

INDOORS

Go to the second floor of the museum to the **Wine in Antiquity gallery (Gallery 213)**, across from the elevator. Find the large *Sarcophagus with Vintage Scene*.



Floor 2

Plant Myths

Your Name _____

Use this sheet to **LOOK** for ancient plants in the **Herb Garden**,
and **LOOK** at images of wine-making in the Museum galleries.

People in ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria created stories to explain natural events that were mysterious to them, such as the changes of the seasons. These fantastic stories are known as myths. Plants, fruits, and flowers were often featured in myths. Some of these can be found in the Herb Garden at the Getty Villa.



OUTDOORS

I. **FIND** the plants, trees, and flowers listed below in the **Herb Garden**.
CHOOSE your favorite plant from the list. Circle its name, then answer the questions.

Apple tree

Grape vine

Olive tree

Rose

Pomegranate

What **COLOR** is the plant?

What **SHAPE** is the plant?

How does the plant **SMELL**?

TOUCH the plant. Describe how it feels. Is it rough, smooth, hard, soft, cold, or hot?

DRAW a picture of the plant in the space below.

Plant Myths

II. **READ** about the role of plants in ancient myths, below, and then answer the questions.



Apple tree: In ancient myths, apples were symbols of love and suffering.



Grape vine: Grapes were not only a source of food for the ancients, but also a source of wine. Romans used wine to cure severe chest pains and coughs.



Olive tree: The olive branch was associated with the goddess Athena and her city, Athens. Olive oil was used to make soap, as fuel for lighting, and in skincare products. The wood from the tree was used to build cabinets.



Rose: Red roses symbolized a love that survived even beyond death. Ancients celebrated Rosalia, an annual festival of the cult of the dead. Roses were used to treat stomach problems and cuts and scrapes, and to make perfumes.



Pomegranate: Pomegranate seeds were central to the myth of Persephone, daughter of Demeter, goddess of the harvest. Persephone was kidnapped by Hades, god of the underworld, who wanted her as his wife. Before Persephone was released to her mother, Hades tricked her into eating pomegranate seeds (seven, eight, or perhaps four according to the telling), which forced Persephone to return to the underworld for a season each year. When Demeter and her daughter are united, the Earth flourishes with vegetation and color, but for some months each year, when Persephone returns to the underworld and Demeter mourns, the earth once again is barren.

Do you eat any product of these plants at home?

Do you ever use these plants as medicine, like the ancients did?



III. **GO TO** the **Wine in Antiquity** gallery (Gallery 213). **FIND** the *Sarcophagus with Vintage Scene*.

Can you see the grapes on this sarcophagus? Where?

What are the people doing with the grapes?

Do you remember what the Romans used grapes for?

What do we make of out grapes today? List two things:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

