

## Teaching Notes: Landscape and plants

Borde Hill is a wonderful resource for looking at a variety of plants, leaf forms, fruit, flowers and berries.

Encourage children to think about our garden as a managed landscape – plants here are not growing in precisely the same conditions as in the wild but they do need the same conditions for growth: sun, water, space, nutrients.

In the garden, we need to think about a plant's needs to ensure it grows well. Some plants are adapted for specific conditions:  
e.g. camellias and rhododendrons grow in acidic soil  
conifer needles are thin and waxy to help prevent frost damage

Compare plants to see what is common and what is unique. It might help to focus on an aspect:  
e.g. leaf shape  
size  
flowers  
seed dispersal

Recording is an important aspect of scientific work. You may use our worksheets or produce your own.

A good place to start is the open space in front of the Mansion, along the Long Walk. The large oak tree has cyclamen leaves at its base and a highly textured trunk. There are evergreen and deciduous trees here. The grass area is mown which limits the growth of other plants on the lawn.

How does the landscape affect the plants? Remind students that plants have to grow where they land – they cannot move to a better site. Is this a good place for a plant to grow?

Move on to the Round Dell for a variety of leaf shapes, trunk formations and berries. Please remind the children to be considerate of other garden visitors and of the plants.

**Above all – enjoy your visit!**