

Chelsea Flower Show



The RHS Chelsea Flower Show celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2013. Are you a blooming expert or a downright weed when it comes to horticulture?

Apart from two gaps during the World Wars, the acclaimed Chelsea Flower Show has taken place in the gardens of the Chelsea Hospital every year since 1913. And this year marks its centenary. While Chelsea may

have been overtaken by its neighbour Hampton Court in size, Chelsea remains the most important and prestigious flower show in the world.

The Royal Horticultural Society Great Spring Show, as it was originally called, had two other homes, before finally settling in Chelsea Hospital. The first show was held in 1862 at the RHS gardens in Kensington and then 28 years later, moved to the heart of London to Temple Gardens on the Victoria Embankment. It remained there until 1912.

The flower show has always taken place over five days in May (apart from in 1926 when it was postponed for a week, because of the general strike). Each year there are visits from the Royal Family: the Queen is a regular visitor. And sometimes members of the Royal Family even get involved with the design of particular gardens. In 2002, Prince Charles helped to design a 'Healing Garden' and this year, his younger son, Prince Harry is working with the same designer, Jinny Blom, on a 'Forget-me-not' garden.

Without doubt, the Chelsea Flower Show is special. It attracts thousands of visitors (and television crews) from all over the world. Exhibitors come from as far afield as Massachusetts and Taiwan. Nearly 160,000 visitors pass through its gates over the five days. And it isn't cheap – if you are not a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, expect to pay up to £55 (about €65) for the day. Most of the tickets for this year's show have long been sold out, so watching on the television will probably be your only option for 2013.

So what can you look forward to at this year's centenary show? Apart from the 'Forget-me-not' garden partly designed by Prince Harry, you can look forward to many garden-designs influenced by a range of themes including sustainable regeneration, British native species, the Olympics legacy, and natural materials and traditional crafts. There will also be displays of new plants alongside favourites from 100 years ago. And after over 100 years of resistance, garden gnomes will finally be allowed in the show gardens.

In 2011, 'The Irish Sky Garden', one of the most innovative gardens was the People's Choice show garden winner. Click here to see a short video narrated by its designer Diarmuid Gavin:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-Chelsea-Flower-Show/2011/Video/Shows-gardens/Failte-Ireland,-Cork-City-Council>

And click here to watch an interview with last year's winner Brewin Dolphin showing his beautiful garden:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/chelseaflovershow/9281625/Chelsea-Flower-Show-the-winners.html>

If you would like to find out more about the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, then click here:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-Chelsea-Flower-Show/2013>

If you would like to use flowers as a topic in your lesson from A1.1 upwards, we have provided you with three activities.

You'll find all this in the **Teacher's notes** and on the **Worksheet** on the following pages.

Teacher's notes

Activity 1: Flower names (level A1.1 and upwards, 10+ mins)

Make one copy of **Flower names** (see Worksheet) for each student. If you have a book of common flowers, bring that to the lesson, too.

On the board, write the word *flowers*. (You could draw a generic flower next to the word.) Ask students where you can find flowers: in a shop (a florist), in the garden, in the park, in a wood, on the balcony, in the living room.

Tell students they are going to learn the English names of some flowers. Ask them how many flower names they know in German (don't ask them to list the flowers, just to give an estimate.) You may find that some students don't know the names of many flowers in German – try to match them with a student who knows several flower names.

Distribute the matching exercise and ask the students to match the German and English flower names. They may need to use a dictionary.

Check the answers in class.

Key: 1b), 2f), 3m), 4h), 5a), 6c), 7k), 8d), 9l), 10e), 11g), 12i), 13n), 14j)

When students have finished, they should ask their partner the four questions.

Activity 2: My garden (level A1.1 and upwards, 20+ mins)

Make one copy of the gap fill exercise **My garden** (see Worksheet) for each student.

Explain that students are going to do a gap-fill dictation exercise. Ask students to read through the text on their own. Write any unknown vocabulary on the board and check the meaning together – *to plant, flowerbed, pond, front garden, wall, between*.

Read out the complete text. Students should write in the names of the flowers they hear. Read it a second time and then check the answers in class.

I want to plant some flowers in my garden. In the smallest flowerbed, I'm going to plant some (a) **snowdrops** and in the flowerbed between the apple trees I'm going to plant some (b) **poppies**. In the flowerbed next to the wall I'm going to plant some (c) **daffodils**. Between the daffodils and the pond, I'm going to plant some (d) **tulips**. In the biggest flowerbed I'm going to plant some (e) **roses** – lovely pink ones. In the front garden, I'm going to plant some yellow (f) **sunflowers** in the flowerbed near the road. And in the other flowerbed I'm going to plant some (g) **forget-me-nots**. It's going to look lovely all year and (h) **dandelions** are not going to grow in my garden!

Ask which flowers in the garden are yellow (sunflowers, daffodils (and dandelions) / are red (poppies) / are blue (forget-me-nots) / are pink (roses) / are white (snowdrops). (There may be different answers for tulips.)

Ask which flowers are the biggest / the smallest.

Ask which flowers grow in spring / summer / autumn.

Activity 3: Which flower? (level A2.1 and upwards, 20+ mins)

Make one copy of **Which flower?** for each student. (This activity will work better if you do Activity 1 beforehand.)

Ask students to choose the correct flower in each sentence. Help with any unknown vocabulary. Check the answers in class.

Key: 1. daffodils, 2. pansy, 3. tulips, 4. dandelions, 5. lilac, 6. Snowdrops, 7. sunflowers, 8. Poppies 9. rose, 10. crocuses, 11. forget-me-nots, 12. geraniums, 13. daisy, 14. buttercup

Worksheet

Activity 1: Flower names

Match the German and English names of the flowers.

1	Sonnenblume	a)	crocus
2	Rose	b)	sunflower
3	Tulpe	c)	snowdrop
4	Gänseblümchen	d)	daffodil
5	Krokuss	e)	pansy
6	Schneeglöckchen	f)	rose
7	Mohn	g)	buttercup
8	Narzisse	h)	daisy
9	Löwenzahn	i)	geranium
10	Stiefmütterchen	j)	forget-me-not
11	Butterblume	k)	poppy
12	Geranie	l)	dandelion
13	Flieder	m)	tulip
14	Vergissmeinnicht	n)	lilac

Now ask your partner:

- Which flowers do you like / not like?
- Have you got any of these flowers in your garden / on your balcony?
- When did you last buy some flowers?
- When did you last receive some flowers?

Activity 2: My garden

Listen to your teacher and complete this text.

I want to plant some flowers in my garden. In the smallest flowerbed, I'm going to plant some (a) _____ and in the flowerbed between the apple trees I'm going to plant some (b) _____. In the flowerbed next to the wall I'm going to plant some (c) _____. Between the daffodils and the pond, I'm going to plant some (d) _____. In the biggest flowerbed I'm going to plant some (e) _____ – lovely pink ones. In the front garden, I'm going to plant some yellow (f) _____ in the flowerbed near the road. And in the other flowerbed I'm going to plant some (g) _____. It's going to look lovely all year and (h) _____ are not going to grow in my garden!

Activity 3: Which flower?

Choose the correct flower.

1. I love **daffodils** | **daisies**! They have lovely yellow flowers and they look so bright in the spring – and they are also the national symbol of Wales.
2. My mother's favourite flower is the **pansy** | **buttercup**. She has lots of them on her balcony – purple, yellow and white.
3. Do you know that **poppies** | **tulips** come from Holland? You can go on bus tours and see fields of them. And you can buy pink, purple, white, yellow, red ones.
4. One of the most annoying flowers in the garden are **sunflowers** | **dandelions**. They are horrible weeds and grow everywhere: on the grass, on the path and in the flower beds.
5. You can see **lilac** | **crocus** flowers in April and May. They are usually pale purple or white and smell sweet and grow on trees.
6. **Snowdrops** | **Buttercups** are some of the first flowers to grow in the spring - these small white flowers often grow in woods and in gardens, too.
7. Vincent van Gogh painted **sunflowers** | **forget-me-nots**. They are very tall, sometimes over two metres, and have beautiful, big yellow flowers.
8. **Tulips** | **Poppies** are usually bright red and often grow in cornfields. They have black seeds which are used in cooking.
9. The symbol of love is the **poppy** | **rose**. Many people buy red ones as a gift on St Valentine's Day on 14th February. They have sharp thorns and some of them have a lovely perfume.
10. In spring, you can often see **crocuses** | **sunflowers** growing in the grass. They are small flowers and are usually purple, white or yellow.
11. These small blue flowers are very pretty – every garden looks nice with **forget-me-nots** | **roses**. The name means 'remember me'!
12. In summer you can see many **geraniums** | **daisies** growing on balconies. They have beautiful red, pink or white flowers.
13. A **dandelion** | **daisy** is a weed, but very pretty. It has white petals and a yellow centre. The flower opens in the morning and closes in the evening when the sun sets.
14. A **snowdrop** | **buttercup** is a yellow flower that grows in fields and gardens. It isn't very big.