

Shinzen Friendship Garden's main organizing theme is of the Four Seasons; each is represented by a seasonal garden, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. Granite posts are placed throughout the Garden as reminders.

Depending on the time of year you visit, you will experience the best of each season: the bursts of delicate plum blossoms in the spring, the coolness of the water features in the summer, the bare maple branch silhouettes in the winter, and glowing fall leaves of the Chinese pistache and ginkgo trees. The four seasons is a visual and organizational method, arranged by the seasonal changes in the life cycle of a plant. Yet, these markers of change throughout the year can also relate to the human experience.

Within these seasons you will find three main Japanese garden elements: plants, rocks, and water. Walking along the winding paths, you will discover different "hide and reveal" scenes designed in our Japanese style garden. The typical Japanese Gardens pathways are curved, which help create the feeling of a much larger garden as each turn leads to small intimate spaces.

As you stroll Shinzen's winding pathways, pay close attention to the elements that make Shinzen a work of art. Just as a painter uses paint, brushes, and a surface to create an image, so too does a garden designer utilize rocks, plants, water, and sculptures to create a visual masterpiece. These elements are the landscape designer's tools, used to build different visual texture, pattern, color effects; they are carefully organized to create a composition or unified visual form.

Japonica, using Japanese plant varieties not typically found in our local area, have been placed wherever possible. Other plantings are selected because they can handle the dry air and summer.

Shinzen is a place that is always in motion, because plants, trees, and water are in a state of constant growth—no single view is the same. Gardens constantly go through changes as they transition through different stages of maturity. And since gardens are contingent on movement, each twist and turn provide a different scene.

### SUMMER GARDEN

★ The walkway leading to the koi pond is surrounded by evergreen pear trees, and abelia shrubs. Bordering the koi pond, there are varieties of Japanese maples, nandinas, and pittosporums surrounded by asian jasmine ground cover. An aesthetically pruned Japanese black pine grows proudly on the island in the pond. Adjacent to the wisteria draped azumaya are loropetalum, orange flowering quince, and a planting of fringe trees.

### SPRING GARDEN

★ The horticultural highlight of the spring section is the ume grove containing red, white, and pink varieties of ume trees as well as cherry trees and Japanese maples. The walkway loop is surrounded by camellias and azaleas. The interior contains flowering crab apples trees, forsythia, kerria japonica and spirea shrubs. Beautiful sacred lotus plants grow in the shore line abutting the summer section. A large Scots pine leans majestically over the lake.

### FALL GARDEN

★ The dramatic fall colors of the garden are produced by ginkgo biloba, Chinese pistache, Chinese tallow and tulip trees. This loop highlights Japanese maples, camellia sasanqua cultivars, and red pines. Bordering the autumn section is the sago forrest.

*Link to video*

## ★ WINTER GARDEN

The highest elevation in the garden features red spider lilies, sword ferns, and a planting of conifers. The Hiroshima Camphor Peace Tree grows next to the winter tembo dai.

### SYMBOLISM

In the garden, you will learn about symbolism where a non-living and living thing represents a different idea. California State Board of Education Standards are used for the following leading questions.

### LEADING QUESTIONS

*Grades 3rd -5th*

#### KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. What do changes in seasons, and changes in plants seasonally, and the human experience have in common?

#### CRAFT & STRUCTURE

1. Do you agree that a Japanese garden is like a piece of art? If so, how? If not, why not?

#### INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

1. Why do you believe so many plants are mentioned in this story? What is their significance in this text?

*Grades 6th - 8th*

#### KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. What do you believe is the author's main purpose in writing this text?

#### CRAFT & STRUCTURE

1. Take each word below and make a new sentence to show your understanding of each word. Each word is used in the text above, try to use context to infer its meaning if needed.

forge  
silhouettes  
masterpiece  
aesthetically

#### TEXT TYPES & PURPOSE

1. In a well-defined paper, explain how the seasonal descriptions in the text highlight the meaning of a garden that is always in a state of change.

*Grades 9th - 12th*

#### KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. What is the central idea of the text, give examples of how the central idea is defined?

#### CRAFT & STRUCTURE

1. Please define the tone of this text and give examples.

#### TEXT TYPES & PURPOSE

1. What claim is the author making in this text? Please identify the author's claims by supplying evidence of such a claim, then argue against the author's claims by using counterclaims, reasons, and evidence of the opposing view.

### ADDITIONAL LESSON PLANS from Shinzen Friendship Garden

*From the Welcome to the Shinzen Garden Series*

1. The 1939 Lantern (link to video)
  - The 1939 Lantern (link to document)
2. The Koi Pond (link to video)
  - The Koi Pond (link to document)
3. The Toro Nagashi Ceremony (link to video)
  - The Toro Nagashi Ceremony (link to document)

### ADDITIONAL LESSON PLANS from GSBF-Clark Bonsai Collection

*From the Welcome to the Clark Bonsai Collection Series*

1. Yamadori and the Contribution of Japanese Americans to the Art of Bonsai (link to video)
  - Yamadori and the Contribution of Japanese Americans to the Art of Bonsai (link to document)
2. How Old Is It? Age in Bonsai (link to video)
  - How Old Is It? Age in Bonsai (link to document)
3. The Peace Tree Bonsai (link to video)
  - The Peace Tree Bonsai (link to document)
4. An Outdoor Museum (link to video)
  - An Outdoor Museum (link to document)

### ADDITIONAL LINKS TO JAPANESE CULTURE & GARDENS

*Visit us at: <http://shinzenjapanesegarden.org>*

1. Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony (link to video)
2. Japanese Chado Matcha Green Tea Ceremony (link to video)
3. 45 Japanese Garden Design Ideas (link to video)
4. Portland Japanese Garden (link to website)
5. Oregon Koto-Kai Performances (link to website)
6. Green Legacy Hiroshima (link to website)
7. Hiroshima Peace Tree Planted in Clovis (link to website)

### ADDITIONAL LINKS TO GSBF BONSAI COLLECTIONS & BONSAI

*Visit us at: <https://gsbfclarkbonsaicollection.org>*

1. CBC\_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "John Naka – California Juniper" (link to video)
2. CBC\_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "The Dwarf Oak" (link to video)
3. CBC\_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "Basic Bonsai 01" (link to video)
4. CBC\_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "Basic Bonsai 02" (link to video)
5. CBC\_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "Basic Bonsai 03" (link to video)

