

Welcome! Heritage Museums & Gardens celebrates American culture and inspires people of all ages to explore, discover, and learn together. We do this by sharing excellence in horticulture, garden design, outdoor discovery, and the exhibition of great collections. Our collections include antique cars, a 1908 Loeffl carousel, folk art, military artifacts and more. Explore, and if you have questions, Heritage staff members are located in the buildings and around the grounds to assist you. Our [Try It!](#) challenges listed here suggest activities or questions to discuss as a group during your visit.



The **Automobile Gallery** is located in our reproduction Shaker Round Barn. Heritage founder J.K. Lilly III wanted a historically styled building to house his antique car collection and was inspired by the architecture and history of the Shakers. The original barn is located at Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, MA, and was used to house cattle. Inside our reproduction you will see the exhibit *Driven to Collect* which explores the world of collecting classic automobiles.

[Try It!](#) Sit in our 1913 Ford Model T! Think about the revolutionary changes Henry Ford brought to transportation when he first used a continuously moving assembly line to mass produce affordable cars. What would it have been like to drive a vehicle like this?

The **Administration Building** does not contain exhibits but is the oldest building on our grounds. It was home to Charles O. Dexter in the 1920s and 1930s. Mr. Dexter was an amateur horticulturist who is responsible for most of the beautiful hybridized rhododendrons you see blooming at Heritage during the months of May and June.



Following in Mr. Dexter's footsteps, our horticulturists have added many wonderful plant collections to the gardens. Check out the newly expanded **North American Hydrangea Garden** where new species of hydrangeas are grown and tested for the market.

[Try It!](#) Walk through the Hydrangea Garden and count the different colors of flowers you see. The chemical make-up of the soil can cause hydrangeas to change color; an acidic soil pH makes the blooms blue, and a basic soil pH makes them pink. Aluminum can be added to the soil to make it more acidic, and lime can be added to make it more basic. Find your favorite color flower, and then imagine what it would look like if you changed the soil pH.

The sundial in our **Daylily Garden** was created by James Moss, a Massachusetts clockmaker; watch how this ancient clock form keeps perfect time as the sun moves across the sky. This garden contains over 900 varieties of daylilies whose peak bloom is from July to August. The name daylily comes from the Greek word *hemerocallis* meaning "beauty for a day."

[Try It!](#) Have students read the directions on the base of the sundial and practice reading time with Roman numerals. Why might it be off by an hour?



Take a few moments to explore the twists and turns of our crushed sea shell paved **Labyrinth**. It was designed by internationally noted labyrinth artist Marty Cain and provides a place for quiet contemplation, reflection, and meditation. Labyrinths differ from mazes in that they have a single path leading to their center, while mazes are a puzzle and have many paths, directions, and dead-ends.



Try It! How many circles make up our labyrinth? Compare the labyrinth with the maze, located behind the windmill, by experiencing both on your visit.



The **Special Exhibitions Gallery** building is a replica of a Revolutionary War meeting hall called “The Temple” originally located in New Windsor, NY. The building is uniquely constructed with recycled floorboards from a stable in Boston, hand-made wrought iron hardware, and joined together with oak pins. New this year is the

exhibit *Painted Landscapes: Contemporary Views* where students can see how different artists interpret the world around them. The artists paint American landscapes in a variety of styles, from realism to abstraction, to address contemporary issues of land use, nature appreciation, and ecology.

Try It! Have students find a painting that best represents their feelings towards the environment. Check out the reading area so students can learn more about their favorite artist or piece.

Hidden Hollow is an outdoor discovery center filled to the brim with activities for children ages 2-10. Located in a naturally formed kettle hole near the Special Exhibitions Gallery, it’s surrounded by native trees and plants. Climb stepping stumps, investigate plants, experiment with water, make music, and more.



Try It! Search for bugs, dig in the sand, build a fort, or create some art.

The **American Art and Carousel Gallery** houses an antique 1908 Loeff Carousell and an art and history exhibition. Originally created in Providence, RI, by master carver Charles Loeff, the carousel was brought to Heritage by Mr. Lilly in 1972. Examine the figures as they rotate: all of our horses have real hair tails and many of the figures have fancy designs on their right side, called the “romance side,” to attract riders. One horse stands out because of his fancy trappings; he is known as the lead horse and is meant to help the carousel operator keep track of how many rotations the carousel makes during a ride. After a ride, check out *The Heritage Collection* and learn about the past. This exhibit is designed thematically into four areas of home, work, conflict of ideas, and sense of place to highlight the museums’ unique collections and show how objects can teach us about our common history.




Try It! Did you know that any animal other than a horse is called a *menagerie figure*? Ride our carousel and see if you can find the lead horse and at least two menagerie animals.

Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt

Use this activity to help your group explore the many gardens, trails, and collections at Heritage. Consider taking a photo of each discovery. Enjoy learning and please remember to be respectful of plants, animals, and other visitors.



- Two different rhododendron varieties
- A pollinator (hint: bee, butterfly, or bird)
- A reflection
- A car with the Presidential Seal
- Fringe Tree (hint: near the Windmill)
- Tall plants: _____ (what did you find?)
- Water lilies (hint: near the Flume Fountain)
- Small plants: _____ (what did you find?)
- A duck decoy (hint: *The Heritage Collection*)
- Something unexpected: _____
- Shawme Pond Overlook
- A pink and a blue hydrangea
- The Hart Family Maze Garden
- A painting of a landscape: _____ (title)
- Tree bark that looks like camouflage
- A sundial
- An animal home
- Ginkgo Tree (hint: Arbor Bowl)
- A statue of a man (hint: Arbor Bowl)
- Can you find the garden pictured here? 
- A horse with his tongue hanging out
- A painting with a lighthouse
- The labyrinth
- A stool in the shape of a mushroom (hint: Hidden Hollow)
- A toy used long ago (hint: *The Heritage Collection*)
- Miniature soldiers

