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 Looff 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. Additionally, find a scavenger hunt on the last page to engage students further.

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 find Heritage’s unique collection of antique automobiles. In our exhibit, entitled *From Carriage to Classic: How Automobiles Transformed America*, Heritage tells the origin story of the American automobile, from its earliest beginnings as it evolved beyond stagecoaches and horse-drawn carriages to its emergence as a transformative cultural icon. The cars range from 1899-1965 and highlight major changes in design, energy usage, and technology in transportation history.

**Try It!** Sit in our 1913 Ford Model T and try on the dusters and goggles! 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 opened **McGraw Family Garden of the Senses** where students can touch, smell, and engage with plants using all of their senses! For more garden fun, visit the expanded **Hydrangea Gardens** where new & historic species of hydrangeas are grown and tested for the market.

**Try It!** Walk through the Dexter Display Garden and count the different colors of flowers you see. Mr. Dexter was trying to create rhododendrons that had bright, beautiful colors and that smelled amazing. Can you find any rhododendrons that have a scent?

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 renowned 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? See if you can walk the whole thing and count how many trees and shrubs are in and around the space.

The **Special Exhibitions Gallery** building is a replica of a Revolutionary War meeting hall called “The Temple” originally located in New Windsor, New York. The building is uniquely constructed with recycled floorboards from a stable in Boston, hand-made wrought iron hardware, and joined together with oak pins. This year Heritage’s featured exhibit is entitled *Lets Play! New England Toy Stories*. Come find your favorite New England made toys and games and learn the fascinating—and sometimes surprising—stories about the people who brought them to life.

**TRY IT!** Head inside to the Hasbro design studio where students can learn about the process of toy making from concept, to design, to production. Create your own toy design and present your innovations to your classmates.

**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, dig in the sand, make music, and more!

**TRY IT!** Check out the expanded Splash water feature and try out some of the new sink or float activities!

The **American Art and Carousel Gallery** houses an antique 1908 Looff Carousel and an art and history exhibition. Originally created in Providence, RI by master carver Charles Looff, 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 refreshed exhibit *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 at least two menagerie animals.

*Thank you for visiting Heritage Museums & Gardens!* 

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**HERITAGE museums & gardens**

**SELF-GUIDED VISIT**

**INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES**

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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)
- Miniature soldiers (Hint: The Heritage Collection)
- A driving outfit for early automobiles
- Fringe Tree (Hint: The McGraw Family Garden of the Senses)
- Tall plants: ____________ (what did you find?)
- Water lilies (Hint: near the Flume Fountain)
- Small plants: ____________ (what did you find?)
- A board game (Hint: The Special Exhibitions Gallery)
- Something unexpected: _________ (what did you find?)
- Shawme Pond Overlook
- A stage to perform on with costumes (Hint: Hidden Hollow)
- Count the number of G.I. Joes: ____________ (Hint: The Special Exhibitions Gallery)
- Learn about the Wampanoag (Hint: Heritage Highlights)
- Tree bark that looks like camouflage
- A sundial
- An animal home
- Ginkgo Tree (hint: check the arbor bowl)
- The treehouse
- A horse with his tongue hanging out
- A bee made of LEGO
- The labyrinth
- Can you find the garden pictured here?
- A toy used long ago (Hint: The Heritage Collection)