



# EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF THE PHYSIC GARDEN

## Walk through the meadow

Holyrood Abbey was built about 900 years ago. Its first residents were a community of cannons. The cannons were given land and grew fruit and vegetables to eat and plants and flowers to make medicines.

In this meadow some of the plants and flowers that the cannons used still grow today.

Find and sketch a flower in the meadow.



Find the part of the garden which looks like a maze.

In 1503 James IV started building the Palace of Holyroodhouse and a royal garden. A part of it looked like this. In his garden he also built a tennis court which stood here.

What other sports do you think James IV would have played in his garden?



Go to the little building with the cone shaped roof.

Mary, Queen of Scots lived at the Palace about 500 years ago. You are now in what would have been her private or privy garden. In this garden she met with important visitors and afterwards they may have rested and had something to eat in this little building.

Find a spot to have a rest. What do you think Mary would have eaten?

- |           |                          |               |                          |           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Eels      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pizza         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Soup      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wild boar | <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring onions | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chocolate | <input type="checkbox"/> |





Explore the part of the garden with vegetable patches and raised beds.

350 years ago Sir Robert Sibbald and Sir Andrew Balfour began a special type of garden called a Physic Garden, where they could grow plants used for health and healing. Students studied the plants grown here, and doctors of the city of Edinburgh used them in their treatments.



Mint was used in lots of medicines in the past. Can you find mint in the raised beds?

Yes

No



Look through the fence towards the Palace.

More than 170 years ago Queen Victoria visited the Palace for the first time. When she visited, the area was full of noisy, dirty and smelly factories.

Victoria made lots of changes to the gardens. She built a new road through part of the gardens so she didn't need to go past the factories in her carriage.

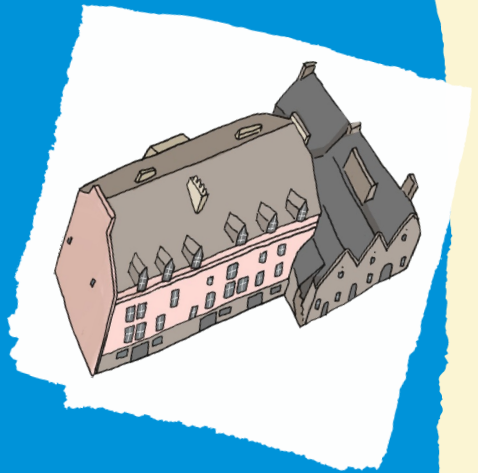
What can you hear, see and smell in the garden today?

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Can you find the pink building?

This is Abbey Strand. It has a history almost as long and as interesting as the Palace! It has seen the Palace and gardens, including the Physic Garden, change over many centuries.



What do you think the Physic Garden will look like in 100 years time?