

More activities...



1 The famous poet William Wordsworth wrote a poem all about daffodils.

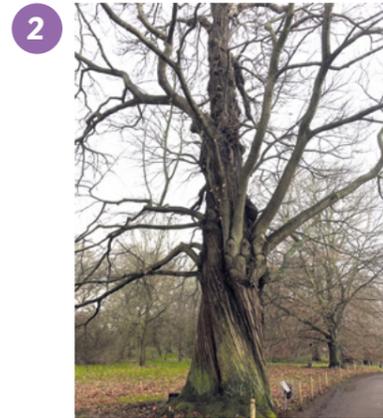
★ Why not try reading this poem out loud?

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

*I wandered lonely as a Cloud
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd
A host of dancing Daffodils;
Along the Lake beneath the trees,
Ten thousand dancing in the breeze.*

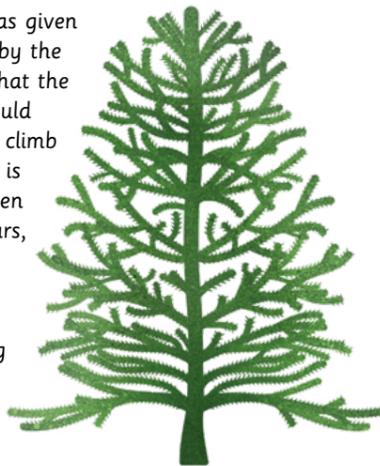


★ Can you write a poem inspired by Kew in spring?



★ Can you match any of the trees you see with the photo?

3 The monkey puzzle tree was given its common English name by the Victorians. They thought that the tree's stiff, spiky leaves would puzzle a monkey trying to climb it. The monkey puzzle tree is native to Chile and has been around for 200 million years, existing at the same time as the dinosaurs. Did you know that the seeds are edible? Birds enjoy feasting on them.



6 When walking along the bank of the Lake you may notice roots projecting up into the air. These are called 'knees'. They act as a sort of 'snorkel' for the swamp cypress trees that grow in water-logged soil.



Their special root systems supply oxygen to the main submerged trunk.

7 Trees included in the Log Trail are beech, ash, oak, eucalyptus and pine.

- ★ There are beech trees growing all around you. Can you spot their vibrant, almost lime-green-coloured new leaves?
- ★ Pay attention to the fallen trees that make up the trail and examine their cut ends. Spot the rings.
- ★ Choose a tree – can you work out how old it is? Each ring represents one year's growth.



★ Can you identify these trees along the Woodland Walk?



Clockwise from top left: silver birch, beech, oak, hazel, sweet chestnut, hawthorn

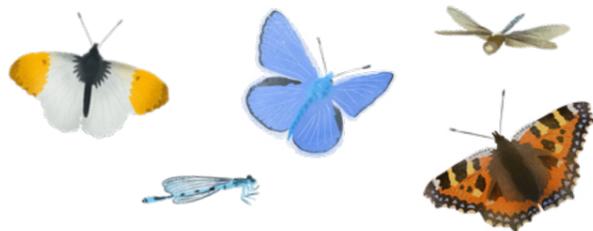
8 You won't have seen our badgers before – they're nocturnal, which means they usually come out at night. During the day, they live in underground burrows called setts.

These setts, just like our Giant Badger Sett, have a maze of rooms lined with grass, straw and dead leaves. They make the perfect place for badgers to sleep, store food and raise their cubs.



★ What do badgers like to eat? See if you can find out.

9 The Natural Area was donated to Kew by Queen Victoria. She wanted it to be kept in a wilder, untamed state. Tall grasses, wildflowers and whispering trees surround the shaded path, while butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies dance through the undergrowth.



10 As many as 20 sweetly scented, bell-shaped flowers can appear on a single bluebell stalk. Bees, hoverflies, butterflies and other insects love them, as they provide an important source of nectar for food.

★ Can you identify these flowers?



Clockwise from top left: daffodil, tulip, crocus, bluebell



Thank you for visiting today.
Designed in partnership with our
Volunteer Family Community Connectors.



Start at Victoria Gate

As you exit the ticket barriers, you will see a pathway straight ahead of you.

- 1 During this trail, look around you for one of the earliest welcoming signs of spring, the daffodil. The Latin name for daffodil is *Narcissus*. It is thought to have come from an ancient Greek myth about a young man called Narcissus, who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water. The way daffodils bend their necks towards the ground is said to symbolise Narcissus leaning over the water to admire himself.

Tick the box when you have completed this section of the trail

- ★ How many different types of daffodil can you spot on this trail?

↪ Turn over to find out more about how this spring flower inspired one of the greatest poets of our time.

Keep walking straight up the pathway and you will come to Five Ways, where five paths meet. Keep going straight on until you come to our collection of magical chestnut trees.

- 2 Special plaster casts were made of one of these chestnut trees so it could be reproduced as the 'Whomping Willow' in the Harry Potter films. Can you identify which tree?

↪ Turn over to see if you can match the tree with the photo.

Keep walking until you start to glimpse the Lake on your right-hand side. Keep right along the path until you arrive at the monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*).

- 3 Most people have heard of a monkey puzzle tree, but where did its funny name come from?

- ★ Look at the branches and leaves. What do they feel like?
- ★ Would you be happy climbing this tree?

↪ Turn over to find out more about this special tree and how it got its common name.

Keep walking until you come to a medium-sized shrub that would make a good place to hide.

- 4 These shrubs are commonly known as weeping eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* 'Pendula'). They are related to pine trees and have drooping, overlapping branches and small cones.

- ★ Look up into the branches – what can you see?
- ★ Are there any birds nesting among the branches?

Keep walking straight until you find yourself at the Lake Crossing.

- 5 The Lake Crossing was installed in 2006. Walk right to the centre of the walkway and look out across the Lake.

- ★ Stand quietly for a minute and listen carefully.
- ★ What can you hear? Can you see any ducklings?

Keep walking to the end of the bridge and then turn left. Follow the side of the Lake.

- 6 The Lake was created in 1856, when the ground was dug out to provide building materials for the original Temperate House. Underground channels connect our Lake with the River Thames and fill it with water.

- ★ As you walk along, compare the trees. Which have leaf buds? Which have new leaves?
- ★ What do they look like?
- ★ Don't forget what's under your feet! Are there any new shoots appearing from the ground?

↪ Turn over to find out about snorkelling trees.

Keep walking to the end of the Lake. Bear left, heading down the grassy Cedar Vista, until you reach a pathway. Turn right. Follow this until you reach the Log Trail.

- 7 Our natural Log Trail was created from Kew trees blown over by the Great Storm of 1987.

- ★ Test your balancing skills on the logs – hop, skip and jump!

↪ Turn over to find out more about the trees on the Log Trail.

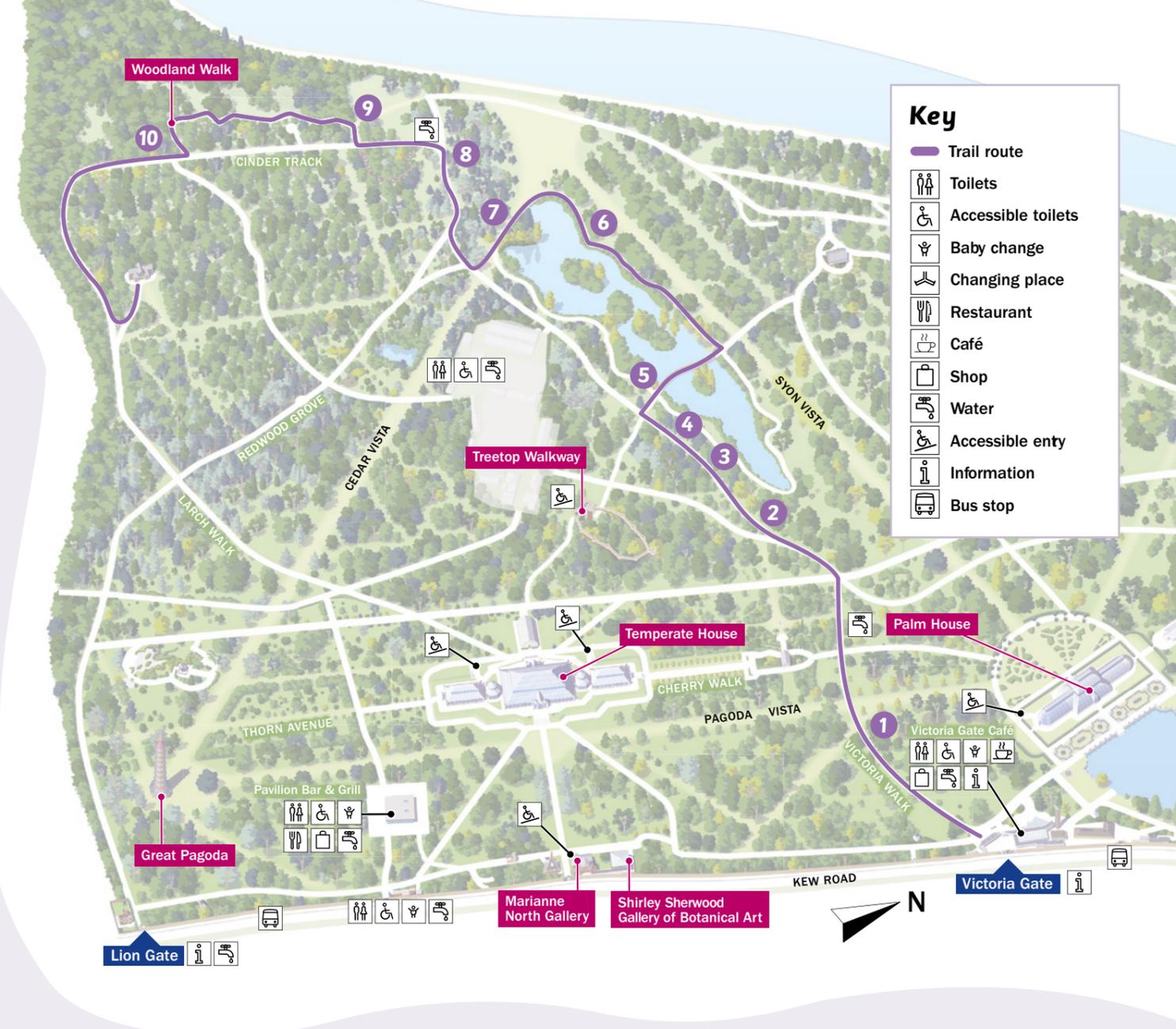
Carry on up the woodland path until you reach the Giant Badger Sett.

- 8 Our Giant Badger Sett at Kew is based on a real badger sett. The tunnels are at least a metre high with one large enough for wheelchairs.

- ★ Imagine you're a badger and explore what it might be like to live underground. How does it smell? How does it feel to come out into the light after being in the dark?

↪ Turn over to find out more about the badgers at Kew.

Continue up the woodland path until you get to a pathway on your left. Follow this path and continue until you reach the Woodland Walk.



- 9 The Woodland Walk is a raised trail that takes you through the Natural Area without disturbing the habitat. As you walk along the trail, get to know our woodland plants, animals and insects.

- ★ How many different woodland insects can you spot in our bug hotels?
- ★ Listen out for a 'tap, tap, tap'. Look up and you might just see the feathered culprits... a woodpecker!

↪ Turn over to find out more about the Natural Area.

As you finish your journey along the Woodland Walk you will find yourself in the Natural Area. Take the pathway ahead of you.

Continue to walk along the path through the Natural Area until you reach the bluebells.

- 10 Follow your nose. What's that smell? As you walk through the Natural Area you might start to smell daffodils and bluebells. The best time to see the bluebells is from mid-April to May. They spend most of the year as bulbs underground and emerge to flower from April onwards.

↪ Turn over to find out more about these beautiful flowers.

Turn right on the grass pathway which leads down to your final stop, Queen Charlotte's Cottage. What can you find out about this beautiful thatched cottage?