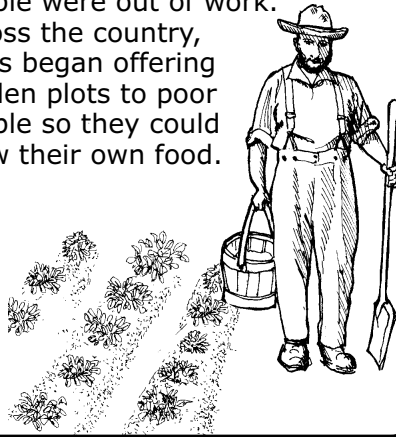


# HISTORY OF COMMUNITY GARDENS IN THE U.S. Science Page

From the late 1800's through the 1940's, the main purpose of community gardens in the U.S. was to grow food.

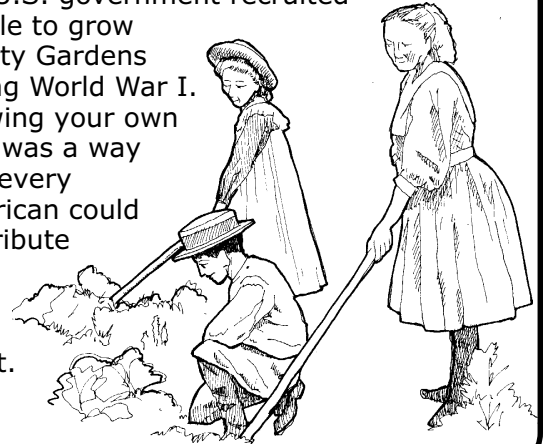
## LATE 1800's POTATO PATCH MOVEMENT

Cities were growing rapidly. Many people were out of work. Across the country, cities began offering garden plots to poor people so they could grow their own food.



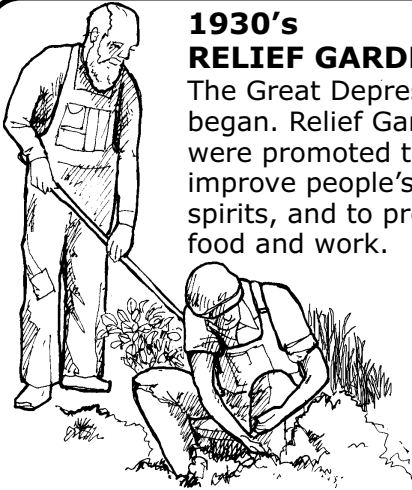
## EARLY 1900's LIBERTY GARDENS

The U.S. government recruited people to grow Liberty Gardens during World War I. Growing your own food was a way that every American could contribute to the war effort.



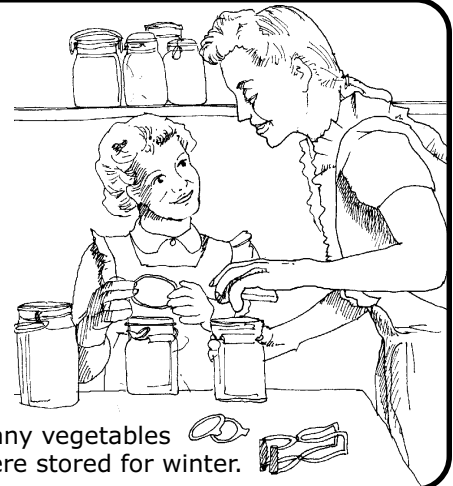
## 1930's RELIEF GARDENS

The Great Depression began. Relief Gardens were promoted to improve people's spirits, and to provide food and work.



## 1940's VICTORY GARDENS

When the U.S. entered World War II, the government launched a Victory Garden campaign. By 1944, 20 million Victory Gardens produced 44% of the fresh vegetables in the U.S.!

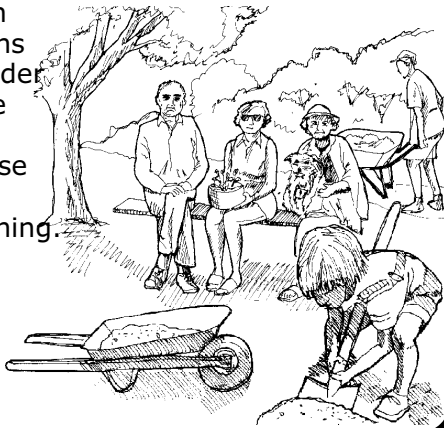


Many vegetables were stored for winter.

From the late 1960's to the present day, community gardens have served many different purposes.

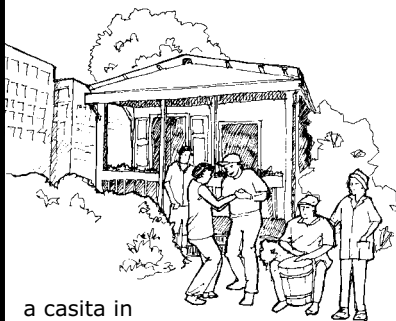
## IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS

People in cities turn vacant lots into beautiful gardens. Gardens provide a quiet place to sit in the shade, or to meet and talk with friends. Children play in gardens and older people get exercise while gardening.



## EXPRESSING CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Many immigrants and Americans from all ethnic backgrounds bring plants and cultural traditions to the gardens, creating multi-cultural garden mosaics.



a casita in a Puerto Rican community garden

## GROWING FOOD

Many people grow their own food because they like the taste of fresh vegetables. Others are concerned about rising food prices or about chemicals in foods. Some simply want to teach their children where their food comes from.

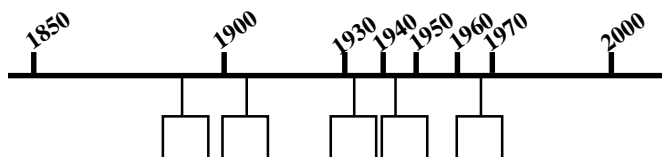




## COMMUNITY GARDEN TIMELINE

Write the letter of each of the following in the correct place on the timeline.

- Liberty Gardens
- Potato Patch Movement
- Beginning of modern day community garden movement
- Relief Gardens
- Victory Gardens



## TRY THIS

### MAKING A COMMUNITY GARDEN TIMELINE

You can make a timeline of major events in U.S. history during the last century. You can add information about community gardening to your timeline to show how historical events have influenced community gardening.

#### What you need

- \* sheet of butcher paper
- \* scissors
- \* ruler or meter stick
- \* pencils
- \* glue

#### What to do

- Do research in the library or on the Internet to find out about specific dates and events in U.S. history during the last century. List the events in order from earliest to latest.
- Collect interesting pictures to add to your timeline. Copy pictures from books, or do an image search on the Google search engine to find interesting drawings or photos of important historical events. Also look for photos or drawings related to community gardening throughout the century. For example, do a Google image search for "World War II" and another image search for "Victory Garden." Write captions for the pictures you find.
- Draw the timeline down the center of a sheet of butcher paper. You need to decide how long to make the timeline, and how to divide it up into segments. These decisions may be a matter of trial and error, based on the size of your paper and the amount of information you want to include. For example, you may wish to draw the timeline from 1900 to 2000, and let every 5 centimeters equal one year. Then you would need a sheet of butcher paper 5 meters

long. Measure and mark off the time segments, for example, every 5 years, on your timeline, left to right.

- Mark exact dates of historical events above the timeline. Then glue any information and pictures that you have collected about these historical events above the timeline. Mark dates of community gardening events below the timeline. Glue information and pictures you have collected about gardening below the timeline.
- Display the timeline on a wall. Study the pictures and information carefully. Does the timeline give you a better understanding of how events in history have affected community gardening?

I found a picture of a Victory Garden on the Internet.

I wonder if the development of the Internet has influenced community gardens?



Good. We'll put it under the magazine picture I found on World War II.



## SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

### Why people garden

A researcher at the University of California at Berkeley conducted a survey of community gardeners in San Jose to find out why people garden. A total of 485 surveys were mailed to gardeners in 8 community gardens, and 146 surveys were returned. Of those people who responded, most thought of gardening as a hobby. Recent immigrants said they also garden because they want to beautify the neighborhood and because they want to grow vegetables that are hard to get. Among other reasons given, Mexicans said they garden to connect with their homeland, Europeans to relieve stress, and Laotians to save money.

Source: Lee, S.H. (2002). Community gardening benefits as perceived among American-born and immigrant gardeners in San Jose, California. *Environmental Sciences* 196. Berkeley University of California. <<http://istsocrates.berkeley.edu/~es196/projects/2002final/Lee.S.pdf>>



## RIDDLE

What do you call a country where everyone drives a pink car?

*Answer: a pink carnation*