DISCOVERING PLANTS

Session outline:
Using the story of Huguenot botanist and illustrator, Le Moyne, children will learn about the exciting world of plant hunting and the importance of plants to the Huguenots.

Activity 1: Plant Collectors
How did people collect plants? What was it like for early botanists? Children will be sent on an exploration around the museum to discover and collect plants.

Activity 2: Recording Plants
Using real plants children will find out about the different ways of recording how a plant looks. We will discuss what is important to include in an image and spend time touching, smelling and getting up close with plants! Children will then have a go at creating their own plant drawing and flower pressing.

Activity 3: Huguenot Plants
We will look at how the Huguenots were inspired by plants! From the patterns on their clothes, to the medicines they took and even the flowers Huguenots chose to grow in their gardens! Children will get a chance to handle real silk samples, look at fabric patterns and more.

Learning Outcomes:
- Engage with historic artefacts
- Improve speaking and listening skills
- Learn about the history of plant collecting
- Develop scientific recording skills
- Expand knowledge of the use of plants in daily life

This session is available all year round Tuesday – Saturday please go to www.huguenotmuseum.org/learning for more information on how to book.
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Suggested pre visit activities:

- Look at different types of plant images and talk about their differences (e.g., compare Van Gogh’s *Sunflowers* to a photograph of a sunflower)
- Look at the different parts that make up a plant
- Think about how we use plants in everyday life

Suggested post visit activities:

- Learn more about the functions of the different parts of plants
- Research other plant ‘hunters’ from history. Compare them to today’s botanists (such as film crews for wildlife shows, celebrities such as Tom Hart-Dyke)
- Research where in the world different plants and fruits have come from
- Have a go at flower pressing using different methods (such as a press or heavy books)