

Highdown EXPLORERS



Heritage

The creation of Highdown Gardens began in 1909. Sir Frederick and Lady Sybil Stern wanted to create a beautiful garden, but it was difficult to grow anything in chalk soil. They made a huge investment and hired plant hunters to go on collecting expeditions around the world.



WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Highdown
GARDENS

www.highdowngardens.co.uk



Walk around the **Chalk Pit** -



Can you see the chalk cliff behind the trees?
Can you imagine what this area would have looked like 100 years ago?



There weren't any plants, only the exposed chalk cliff, a pig sty, a lot of rubbish & a tennis court.



Many of Stern's plant seeds were collected by plant hunters from the Himalayas and China from 1914 to 1939.



What sort of difficulties would the plant hunters have had when collecting seeds on expeditions in the 19th Century?

Think about: types of transport, how long it took to travel, clothing, footwear, weather, where they slept, dangerous mountains & how to bring seeds back to Sussex safely.



Explore the **Middle Garden** -



Can you find the Chinese Hornbeam tree planted by Queen Mary?
What year was it planted?



Can you spot a picture of Queen Mary back at the visitor centre?



Learn more about Highdown's history at **The Visitor Centre**.