Chinese Pavilion
Enter a miniature landscape…

Chinese bonsai artists create **miniature landscapes in containers or trays** to remind them of enjoyable outings in nature.

*Chinese painting showing a man enjoying nature.*

**Imagine** that you are small enough to walk under the trees you see planted in pots and trays here in the Chinese pavilion. What might you be doing?

**Can you find the landscape with a man fishing?**

**Write the number from its label here:**

Where is the number on a label?
**Look at the end of the bottom line**
Sometimes just one tree in a container is enough to remind you of being in the countryside doing something enjoyable.

Find a container with a single tree that has a person sitting under it.

Write the number from its label here: ___
Chinese Pavilion
Enter a miniature landscape…

If you were a person in this scene, what would you be doing to relax and have fun?

Draw yourself into this picture.
Sometimes Chinese landscapes are mostly mountains.

Find a scene on a tray that is made mostly of rocks.

Make a sketch of it in this box.

In China, landscape scenes in containers or trays are called “penjing.”
In **Japan**, bonsai artists focus on the **shapes of trees**.

They create **“styles”** of trees that remind them of how trees grow in nature.

**Examples of styles:**
- Semi-cascade style
- Forest style
- Broom Style
- Cascade style
- Root over rock style
- Informal upright style
- Formal upright style
- Slant style

*Find bonsai in the Japanese Pavilion that match the styles of the trees on the next 3 pages →*
Japanese Pavilion
Looking at trees…

Root over rock style

The tree’s visible roots grow over a rock.

Bonsai number

is in this style.

Forest style

Trees of various sizes planted together in groups.

Bonsai number

is in this style.
Japanese Pavilion
Looking at trees...

**Slant style**

The tree is at an angle so the top of the trunk is not over the base.

Bonsai number

is in this style.

**Informal upright style**

This trunk is curvy, but the top curves back to line up over the base.

Bonsai number

is in this style.
Japanese Pavilion
Looking at trees...

Twin trunk style

Two trunks grow from the base of the tree.

Bonsai number is in this style.

Formal upright style

The trunk is straight with no curves and the branches are almost horizontal.

Bonsai number is in this style.
By the way, did you know trees are the oldest living things on earth?

Bonsai artists want their trees to look like they have lived a long time.

Why is that?

We especially treasure trees that survive into old age, like these North American trees:

Bristlecone pines (live up to 5,000 years)

(By the way, did you know trees are the oldest living things on earth?)

California redwoods (live up to 2,000 years)
North American Pavilion
Discover secrets to looking old …

The best bonsai artists create **living sculptures** inspired by nature.

They use many techniques to change the way their bonsai look, especially to make them appear **older**. They **study old trees** to identify features they can imitate.

**What do you think makes a tree look old?**

Use **bonsai** in the North American Pavilion to see if your answers **match the most common old-age features** used by bonsai artists.
North American Pavilion
Discover secrets to looking old …

**Trunk flare**
As a tree ages, its trunk and limbs become bigger and heavier. The base of the trunk flares out to support the weight.

Find 2 bonsai with flaring trunks. Write their label numbers here:

Find 2 bonsai with deadwood. Write their label numbers here:

**Deadwood**
When a tree has lived a long time, especially in a harsh environment, some parts of the tree may die, while other parts continue to live.
North American Pavilion
Discover secrets to looking old …

Surface roots
As a tree ages, sometimes the surrounding soil washes away to expose the roots closest to the trunk.

Find 2 bonsai with surface roots. Write their label numbers here:

Hollow trunk
Many old trees have rotted out trunks. They continue to survive because the living part of a tree is on the outside.

Find 2 bonsai with hollow trunks. Write their label numbers here:
Now that you have explored our museum, you can use your bonsai knowledge—

When you see beautiful trees in nature like this one...
...can you imagine them as bonsai?

If you were a bonsai artist, which trees would inspire you?
How do you say **BONSAI**?

“bone” + “sigh”

BON
means
“tray”

SAI
means
“planting”

Bonsai means “tray planting”