





# Design Principles

Have you ever seen a vacant lot that is full of grass and weeds? Try to picture what that same area would look like if it was covered with green grass and big trees. Imagine that there were flower beds all along the edges, with many bushy shrubs and brightly colored blooms. You could even picture a small pond with a few orange fish swimming around the long, green leaves poking out of the water. Would you like to design an area to look like that? People who are landscape designers know tricks to making areas outside more beautiful. This section will help you learn the landscape designer's secrets.

## THINGS FOR YOUR JMG GROUP TO DO:

-  Nature Wheels
-  Texture Collection
-  Same Sides
-  Does It Fit?

## THINGS FOR YOU TO DO:

### Potato Vase

If you have plants in a flower bed, they probably are not all the same size. The short plants should be in front of the tall plants so you can see them. Even if you are putting flowers in a vase, the tallest flowers should be in the back.



You can make a cool vase for flowers using a potato and straws. Cut a potato in half and set the flat side down on a plate. Poke several straws into the potato. The straws are going to hold your flowers! Decide which side of the potato will be the front. Use scissors to clip those straws shorter. Next, cut the straws on the middle just a little bit. Don't cut the straws on the back side. Fill the straws with water and find flowers that have stems small enough to fit in the straws. Make sure the plate for the potato has a little bit of water in it.

Look around your neighborhood and see if the beds in most yards have the taller plants in the back and the shorter plants in the front. Give your potato vase as a gift to a special person!

This page reproduced with permission of the  
Junior Master Gardener® Program.  
For more information about the JMG® Program  
or to obtain JMG® curricula,  
visit: [www.jmgkids.us](http://www.jmgkids.us)

\_\_\_\_\_ date completed  
\_\_\_\_\_ leader/parent initials