

Urban gardening



Hi, my name is Patricia and I am an urban gardener. I love digging the earth, putting seeds in the ground, and growing my own food.

When I was in primary school, I thought I couldn't do all of it at home. I live in Melbourne, which is a large city, and people usually have farms and gardens in the country. Then I found out about urban gardening – growing food in the cities. I decided to try it out. After all, it isn't a new idea. In ancient Persia, people brought water to the middle of the desert to grow their gardens. In Macchu Picchu (in today's Peru), people planted food on terraces, taking care to use as much sun and water as they could. People take up urban gardening for different reasons. For example, some want to make sure their food is clean. Others love having fresh food in their home, without going to the market. And some people sell the food and earn money. I simply like to have plants in my home, especially ones I can eat.

My favourite plants to grow are different types of salad. Most of them are on the balcony. In the first picture you can see me next to my cherry tomatoes. The other one shows an entire wall with different kinds of lettuce. I don't have any pets, so I spend at least an hour every day taking care of my plants. They are less messy than animals and don't mind when I am not home.



The only problem are summers – they can be very hot in Australia. I have to take extra care, so my plants stay healthy. Two years ago, I went away for holidays, and when I returned, half of my garden was ruined. Now when I travel, I ask a friend to help with the garden.

Questions and tasks:

- 1 Do you have a garden? Do you know (other) people who do?
- 2 What do you (or, they) grow?
- 3 Which fruits and vegetables do you like to eat? Can they grow on a balcony?
- 4 What are some of the good and bad sides of having a garden (in the city or country)?
- 5 Find out what fruit and vegetables can and cannot grow on a balcony.
Imagine and draw your own balcony garden.
- 6 Do you think it is difficult to have an animal farm in the city?

Extra Credit Assignment:

Do some research and make a presentation about a city farm.