

# What the Gardener Saw

An idea for an Easter lesson and presentation

Are you stuck for ideas for an Easter lesson, or class assembly or a wall display?

**This story works well and can be very good for including large groups of children.**

## **Method:**

A large picture is gradually put together of the Easter story. There are 28 pieces and each is related to line of text. As the text is read, the picture is placed on a board.

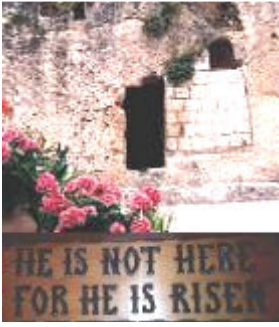
## **Preparation:**

Create a large-scale version of the picture below. Draw guidelines for each of the 28 sections on an A4 piece of card. Each section needs to fit in with those around it, so add tips about colour and perspective. Then give each piece to a child to complete the drawing and colour in. Use bright colours and strong outlines.

On a large display board create a 28-piece grid with the relevant numbers in each space. Work out how to fix the jigsaw pieces to the board. It could be as simple as blue-tack or pins, or you could add hooks, Velcro or magnetic strips.

## **Delivery:**

There are a number of ways to do this. You could have a narrator who tells the story while one person puts each picture on the board. You could have each child tell his/her line and then place their picture on the board. Or, you could have any combination of the two.



# What the Gardener Saw

## A Easter story

1. My name is Gad the gardener. I live in a city called Jerusalem. Everything was nice and simple ... until recently.
2. I live in a very small house at the end of a garden. Actually, it's more of a hut than a house.
3. The garden looks very nice. There are yellow flowers...
4. There are red flowers...
5. And there are blue flowers.
6. There is also a funny cave in the garden, near the flowers.
7. A friend of mine once said it would be a peaceful place to bury someone when they died.
8. From my hut you can see a hill in the distance.
9. One day, I looked out over the hill, as I often do.
10. There was something unusual happening on this particular day. There was a crowd going up the hill, making a lot of noise.
11. They put up three crosses: one on the left...
12. One on the right...
13. ....and one in the middle. The crowd had gathered around the cross in the middle.
14. After some time, the crowd began to grow quiet. I could hear some people crying.
15. As the sun went down, I heard someone cry out loudly. I think it was the man on the cross in the middle.

16. The sky turned dark. It seemed to be dark much earlier than usual. I was getting more and more curious.
17. Slowly, the crowd began to come back down the hill.
18. They were much quieter now. They seemed a bit uncomfortable.
19. Later, I saw a few people coming along the path towards the garden.
20. As they got closer, I could see they were carrying the body of a man.
21. They took the body to the cave, and buried him there. My friend was right. It was a peaceful place to bury someone.
22. A stone was rolled in front of the cave. The people stayed outside the cave a long time, crying. They seemed to think they had lost someone very special. I didn't know *what was* going on.
23. Nothing else unusual happened until Sunday morning. I was woken up by voices outside my hut. I heard a woman ask a man, "Are you the gardener?"
24. I tapped on my window, "*I'm* the gardener!", I said. But she didn't hear. She was looking in amazement at the man in front of her.
25. The woman ran off. A short while later, two men came running to the cave. By this time, I was totally confused.
26. They stared in surprise at the stone by the side of the tomb. I was surprised too - it looked like the stone had moved.
27. Suddenly, a man in bright white clothes appeared from nowhere. He looked more like an angel than a man.
28. He spoke a few words. "He is not here. He has risen". I wonder who he was talking about? I wish someone would tell me what's going on!

