

Secret Explorer Quest Notes



Can you foil the fiendish foliage fixers?

Sara Trimmer has dreamt of winning 'Top Town Topiarist' ever since she saw her first squirrel-shaped shrub. Unfortunately, her long-term rivals, the Hedge Hackers, have other ideas. Led by Ed Sheeroff, these selfish secateur saboteurs are determined to spoil Sara's chances. Last year, they lopped all the local bushes into rude shapes. This time, they have stolen Miss Trimmer's custom-made set of twig tweakers. However, the gang is not the sharpest set of shears in the toolbox: a set of gardening labels in Sara's compost heap seem to be clues to the location of the Hedge Hackers' high-security HQ (aka Ed's shed). Sara needs to finish fixing her foliage before the Top Town Topiarist judges arrive, but time is running out. Can you solve the clues and work out the precise location of Ed Sheeroff's shed, so that Sara can retrieve her tools and finally achieve her dream?

Ready to start your quest?

Sara needs YOU, our top explorers, to come out of the bushes and trim down the possible shed locations marked on the map below. You'll need to explore various locations via Google Maps in order to spot the information you need. Every sneaky clue you answer will match one of the shed locations below. Cross that place off. Solve all the clues and you'll be left with just one spot - Ed's shed, the location of the Hedge Hackers' hangout and where Sara can find her prized twig tweakers.

Shed Map



Adventure Details

To help reunite Sara Trimmer with her twig tweakers, you'll need to travel the globe to identify some magnificent topiary. There's limited time, so you'll need to explore virtually with the help of Google Maps. Match each clue answer to one of the place names on the Shed Map. Cross each location off as you go.

Let's Go



Fasten your seatbelts, open Google Maps on your chosen device, and get ready for a whirlwind tour of topiary delights! Visit the location specified in each clue box. Use satellite view if needed. Enter Street View mode to solve the clue. (Drag the little orange man, or press and hold on the map on a mobile.)

Clue 01

Sara is a great admirer of The Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden in South Carolina, USA. Take a closer look. Somewhere right by the roadside is a shrub beautifully trimmed into a 3-digit number. The middle digit will help you identify one of the map locations on the Shed Map. Cross it off. Ed's shed is not here.

Clue 02

Next stop Ecuador! Locate Tulcan Cemetery, home to a jaw-dropping topiary wonderland. There's no time to go inside now though. Search along the road called Cotopaxi. There's a Santa on a balcony opposite the cemetery. Our cameras caught a Hedge Hacker's truck driving by. What's on the back of the truck?

Clue 03

Sticking to Spanish-speaking countries, you now need to fly off to Spain! Head to Loro Parque in Puerto de la Cruz and plonk yourself at the little roundabout just inside the main entrance. Don't get dizzy as you go topiary-spotting here. You're looking for three in a row, one big, one medium and one small.

Clue 04

You're doing grrreat! Now nip back across the pond to find a tiger! In Busch Gardens, Florida, explore the tiger area. This may take a bit of searching but you'll know the topiary tiger when you see it. Position yourself face to face with it to see a two-word sign behind. The word that isn't tiger will help your quest.

Topiary Fact File

WHAT? The art of training plants, shrubs and trees into intricate shapes and forms. WHY? To give gardens a sense of structure and formality, and a bit of fun! CELEBRATE: World Topiary Day is held on 12th May. OLDEST: The topiary gardens at Levens Hall, Cumbria date from 1694. Ooh! Let's go there now!

Clue 05

Go to Levens Hall, Cumbria. Activate Street View to search the dual carriageway section of the A6 heading south to north alongside the garden wall, peering over the wall as you go. When you spot the white sundial, examine the brown sign nearby. What's unusual about it? Match your findings to a map location.

Clue 06

Stay sharp and take flight once more to find FloraPark in Jazowosko, Poland. This is where lesser-skilled topiarists come to buy their creations, so we think the Hedge Hackers must have been here. Scour the roadside frontage for a green frame facing right. What is it? Your answer will cross off a shed-less spot.

Clue 07

Hop westward across the ocean to Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania. Head straight to the Topiary Garden here, no need to mess about. Study the large sundial at one end. What are the two numbers at either end of the raised section around the edge? Add these together and apply your total to the map.

Clue 08

Your final stop on this 'Tour des topiaires' is le Manoir d'Eyrignac, France. You can explore the 300 topiaries from the comfort of your own home. But first - activate satellite view to locate four slightly incomplete stars from above. Transport yourselves to the middle to discover what is spouting water.

Success!



Shimmering shears! You've done it! You should have one spot left on your map. This must be where Ed's shed / Hedge Hackers' HQ is located. Submit your answer at <https://bit.ly/TT-Topiary> so that we can reunite S.Trimmer with her twig tweakers and get her back on track to claim the title of Top Town Topiarist.