



10 Minutes For The Planet

The Tropics In Paris ©

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Vocabulary & pronunciation study by

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Words are explained alongside the text

Stressed syllables are underlined and in bold*

Hi everyone! And welcome to this week's **episode** of Ten minutes for the Planet. I hope you **survived** all the extra Christmas food, drinks and parties, and that you were able to **take** some quality **time off**.

For those of you who weren't able to take a break outside our **hectic** capital, here's a good place for an **invigorating** break *in* Paris. Last week I visited "Le Jardin des Serres-d'Auteuil". This unusual place is really **amazing**.

In the **late1800s**, beautiful **huge greenhouses** were built in this 18th century garden - originally **sponsored** by our botanical **enthusiast**, King Louis the 15th. Located above the Parc des Princes stadium and the famous Roland Garros courts, in the south of the Bois de Boulogne, this garden is all at the same time an **elegant** classic French "Jardin", a beautiful 19th century piece of **architecture**, and an immersion **trip** to many different exotic and tropical climates with an extremely rich **biodiversity**.

In less than one hour you travel to Brazil, Australia, The Sahel, New Caledonia and many other places across the globe. Over the years, the garden and greenhouses have collected over 6,000 different species, with a vast **representation** of rare and remarkable ones. With over 500 types of orchids and one of the oldest **GinkoBilobas** in France the many splendid collections are really very impressive.

The place is also **skillfully** designed for the experience to be complete. Exotic birds **swing** and sing in large

to take time off (exp.) to rest / to stop work

hectic (adj.) intense agitation

amazing (adj.) incredible

late (adj.) near the end of

1800s (n.) the years of 1800

huge (adj.) very very big

greenhouse (n.) a building made of glass used for growing plants

trip (n.) travelling from one place to another

Ginko Biloba (n.) a tree native to China - it is the national tree of China

skillfully (adv.) doing something well with knowledge or ability

to swing (vb.) to cause to move backwards and forwards

aviaries and Japanese **koi carps** swim in the various ponds. Wooden huts and stone statues hide in every corner. You can also come across **mascaron ornaments** by Auguste Rodin on the graceful terrace. It's a fabulous journey across time and space.

Make sure you have a T-shirt under your many layers, as it can get **quite** warm in some of the greenhouses, especially if it's sunny outside. You can sit around **cute** little **cast iron** tables with a book between the palm trees, smell and touch exotic plants, meditate a while in the **Japanese** garden.

The site is most spectacular at **sunset** with the reflection coloring the glass roofs. The Jardin des Serres d'Auteuil is open every day, all year round, from 8 or 9am to 4 or 5pm. And it's completely free! There are many **educational notices** to learn all about the different plants and the stories of the places they come from but the Paris Town Hall also regularly organizes free tours of the gardens and greenhouses. This is a way to get more **insight** and fun facts about the site and its collections.

I hope I was able to convince you to go and have a look for yourself before you all turn into **couch potatoes**!

Bye everyone! Enjoy more New Year's food, drinks and parties and see you next for a new episode of Ten minutes for the Planet.

aviary (n.) large bird house

koi carps (adj. + n.) decorative variety of carp

ornament (n.) an object intended to add beauty to the appearance of something

quite (adv.) to a considerable extent

cute (adj.) attractive

cast iron (n.) an alloy of iron, carbon and other elements

notice (n.) a placard with written information on it

insight (n.) understanding

couch potato (exp.) sedentary person

***Tip!** Syllable Stress can help us to understand spoken words, let's take the words 'Japan' and 'Japanese' as an example.

First count the syllables: 'Ja•pan has 2 syllables 'Jap•a•nese' has 3 syllables
Syllable Stress is when you say one of the syllables slightly louder and with more emphasis.
So in this example we say: **Japan** and **Japanese**