

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Multiple Main Ideas**

# Bonsai

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Fill out the organizer.

The word “bonsai” means a tree or a plant that has been carefully cultivated in a container to look like nature in miniature. The art of growing a bonsai combines horticultural techniques and artistic expression. The balance between the tree and the pot is very important. For the most realistic look, the depth of the pot should be about the same as the diameter of the trunk.

Bonsai have an interesting history. The word “bonsai” is Japanese, but the art of bonsai originated in China. People have been growing bonsai for well over a thousand years in both China and Japan. Originally they were probably trees collected from wild, mountainous regions of The East that had been dwarfed by the harsh climate of their habitats. These trees were planted in decorative pots and given as exquisite gifts. Bonsai were originally a project of the elite. But in 1909 they were seen at an exhibition in London, and their popularity began to grow. Nowadays there are bonsai societies throughout the world.

**Main Idea:**

**Key Details:**

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