

## Kyras Script <3

*A story of time...*

*Scene opens with soft, contemplative music. The camera pans over the lush landscapes of the Missouri Botanical Garden, eventually focusing on a vibrant poppy bloom.*

***Narrator (Voiceover):***

*"With in the heart of St. Louis, the Missouri Botanical Garden stands as a testament to botanical beauty and scientific adventure. Yet, beneath its serene pathways and diverse flora lies a story intertwined with colonial ambitions and extractive practices."*

*Cut to historical images of 18th-century St. Louis, depicting French settlers and enslaved individuals working the land. - Maybe idk what yall's thoughts about that.*

***Narrator (Voiceover):***

"In the early 1700s, French settlers introduced slavery to the region, exploiting both Native Americans and Africans. Enslaved people labored in river commerce, construction, agriculture, and domestic duties, their toil fueling the growth of colonial enterprises."

[missouribotanicalgarden.org](https://missouribotanicalgarden.org)

Transition to images of opium poppy fields in colonial India.

***Narrator (Voiceover):***

"Half a world away, the British Empire's insatiable demand for opium led to the cultivation of poppies across India. This 'sea of poppies' was not just a crop but a symbol of exploitation, as indigenous lands and peoples were subjugated for profit."

The screen splits between the opium fields and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

***Narrator (Voiceover):***

"These parallel histories converge in botanical gardens like ours. Established in the 19th century, the Missouri Botanical Garden amassed plant specimens from around the

globe, many collected under colonial rule. While contributing to scientific knowledge, this practice often overlooked the colonial contexts of their acquisition."

Cut to present-day scenes of the garden's diverse plant collections.

***Narrator (Voiceover):***

"Today, as we stroll through these gardens, we encounter not just plants but stories of resilience and resistance. The opium poppy, once a symbol of colonial exploitation, now coexists with species from regions that endured colonial extraction."

The camera focuses on visitors engaging with informational plaques and participating in educational programs.

***Narrator (Voiceover):***

"By acknowledging these intertwined histories, we honor the legacies of those who suffered and celebrate the resilience of cultures that endured. The Missouri Botanical Garden, in its beauty and diversity, invites us to reflect on our shared past and its enduring impact on our present."

Scene fades out with the soft rustling of leaves, leaving viewers with a sense of contemplation.

**Poppies ! These websites are good for this !**

[Poppy - Wikipedia](#)

[Environmental Colonialism, The Root Cause Of Our Planet's Crisis - Worldcrunch](#)

[Green Colonialism: A New Form of Exploitation - Insights | Integration !\[\]\(4729e517bc6a7cd81c8025b9646574fb\_img.jpg\)](#)

[Resistance of colonization in the novel Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh | LITERA KULTURA : Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies](#)

[Stringing, Reconnecting, and Breaking the Colonial "Daisy Chain": From Botanic Garden to Seed Bank | Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience](#)