

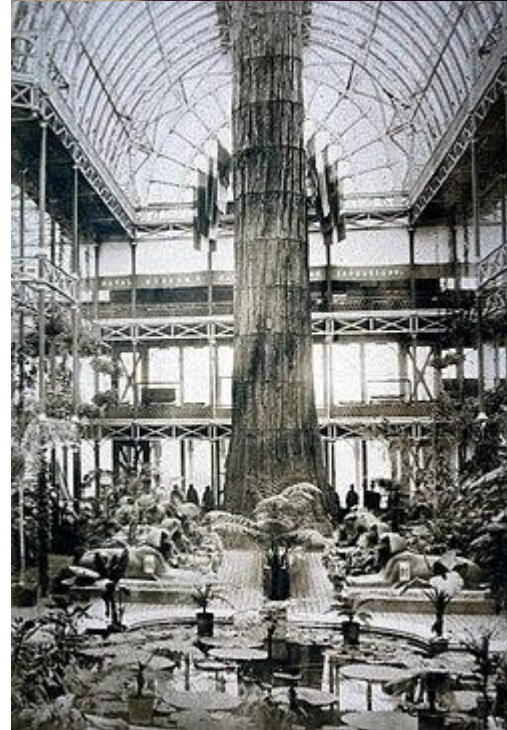
TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

The 'Mother of the Forest' was a giant sequoia tree in California, which was the second largest in the valley when 'discovered' in 1852 by Europeans during the California Gold Rush. Looking for ways to make money the European settlers **felled** some smaller trees (pictured, top) and transported them to Europe and America's east coast, where they could charge people to see the large trees of the great unexplored lands of the American West.

Transporting such large trees was expensive, so instead in 1854 the Mother of the Forest had its bark completely stripped. Workers made holes in the tree using augers and inserted rods to set up scaffolding, which enabled workers to saw off the bark. Over 90 days 60 tons of bark were removed in 8 feet by 5 sections. A sample of the tree's core was studied and found it to be 2520 years old.

The bark was sent to New York and then shipped on to London in 1856, where it was setup in The Crystal Palace exhibition as a hollow Giant Sequoia (pictured, below). It remained at The Crystal Palace until a fire in 1866 which destroyed many of the Palace's exhibits. In 1908 the remaining core of The Mother of the Forest was also destroyed in a forest fire, without its bark to protect it.

- 1) How would you feel seeing the tree's bark in London? Would you admire its beauty and size, or be horrified it had been stripped?
- 2) Activities like this can lead to people appreciating nature in its original location. Was it the death of this tree worth it?



TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

The 'Mother of the Forest' was a giant sequoia tree in California, the 2nd largest in the valley in 1852.

The bark was stripped from the 2520 year old tree in 1854 and shipped to London where it was set up as a hollow tree in the Crystal Palace (pictured), showing off the size of Sequoia in the American West. It was destroyed in the 1866 fire that destroyed The Crystal Palace. The remaining core of the tree died in 1908 in a forest fire, without it's bark to protect it.

- 1) How would you feel seeing the tree's bark in London? Would you admire its beauty and size, or be horrified it had been stripped?

