

Ethnobotany with GROW Girl

Recommended Grades: 3rd-5th What is "ethnobotany"?

Ethnobotany is the scientific study of the traditional knowledge and customs of a people concerning plants and their medical, religious, and other uses.

Why is ethnobotany important?

How were plants used in the past?

How are plants used today?

Love, laugh, and learn together!



Useful Plants in Texas

Native Texas plants have been used for thousands of years by Native Americans and were also utilized by European settlers in the early 1700's. There were no grocery stores or pharmacies in those days so people had to rely on the land to survive. Many of the plants that settlers relied upon still exist today; you may even find them in your backyard or local park. Do a quick search online for ""ethnobotany Texas" and dozens of links will popup with information on how Texas plants have been used throughout history; a couple great resources are linked in the box below. After you have browsed through some of the resources online, choose at least 3 plants that you found the most interesting. Head outside for a plant scavenger hunt to see if you can find your favorites, whether they be in your backyard, neighborhood, or local park. When you find one or all of your favorites, take some pictures and write down any observations you can about the plant (location, growing conditions, plant appearance, etc.); page 2 of this document can be used when writing your observations. **Many of our native plants are edible, but remember to play it safe and to not*

Take it Further

Even though so many of the native Texas plants can be utilized for food, shelter, medicine, etc., identifying those plants correctly as well as knowing how to properly use them was tricky business. Follow this [link](#) to head to our website for a challenging game called "Survivors on the Prairie". Test your knowledge and skills and find out if you could survive

with the assistance of an adult and/or medical

Check out these websites for more information on ethnobotany:

- Texasbeyonhistory.net
- Txmn.org
- Wildflower.org

Plant #1

Common/scientific name: _____

Plant is/was useful for...

1. Plant description (feels like, smells like, looks like, etc.):

2. Location & surrounding habitat (near water, on top of a hill, under tree, sunny spot, shady spot, soil type, etc.):

3. Other (animals/insects on plant, disease or pests on plants, etc.):

Plant #2

Common/scientific name: _____

Plant is/was useful for...

1. Plant description (feels like, smells like, looks like, etc.):

2. Location & surrounding habitat (near water, on top of a hill, under tree, sunny spot, shady spot, soil type, etc.):

3. Other (animals/insects on plant, disease or pests on plants, etc.):

Plant #3

Common/scientific name: _____

Plant is/was useful for...

1. Plant description (feels like, smells like, looks like, etc.):

2. Location & surrounding habitat (near water, on top of a hill, under tree, sunny spot, shady spot, soil type, etc.):

3. Other (animals/insects on plant, disease or pests on plants, etc.):
