Lants and Peop

Archaeologists study plants to learn about the different ways they were used by people in the past. People have been learning about plants and their many uses for thousands of years! Florida's past peoples relied on plants not only for food but for medicine, tools and other uses. Each plant you see here was used by Native Americans in Florida; the symbols next to each one show how each plant was used.

















Shelter Transportation Tools Dyes & Paints Storage Medicine Food

The roots of the Partridge Pea plant were used for medicine and the leaves were used for tea.







The Cabbage Palm is the state tree of Florida. The fronds were used for thatch houses, mats, and cordage.









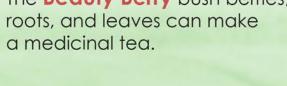


The Winged Sumac shrub leaves and berries were used in making dyes.



The **Beauty Berry** bush berries, roots, and leaves can make a medicinal tea.







Not only was the **Yaupon Holly** bush used in making tea for the "Black Drink" ceremony but the branches were also made into arrows!



The inner bark and roots of the **Hog Plum or Tallow Wood** were used for medicine.

The Slash Pine and Longleaf Pine trees were used as lumber for buildings and dugout canoes.



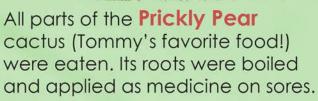


The **Saw Palmetto** shrub fronds provided fiber for baskets and ropes.



NEVER eat wild plants! They must be specially prepared for use as food and medicine.







Coontie is a poisonous plant but Native Americans figured out how to make the roots into a safe-to-eat soup called sofkee!











The bark, flowers, and berries of the **Elderberry** shrub were made into dye for clothing and other textiles. The berries make a beautiful purple dye!





Spanish Moss was used in the earliest pottery made in Florida to keep the clay together and stop the pot from cracking when when it was fired.



The Seminole Pumpkin fruit and flowers were used to make bread and soup.

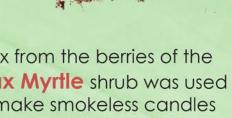
Not only was the **Strangler** Fig tree sap processed into chewing gum by Native Americans, but the wood was also used to make arrows!



















Wax from the berries of the Wax Myrtle shrub was used to make smokeless candles by early settlers!











Common Cattail into medicine to treat cuts, scrapes, and burns.

The fruit of the Muscadine Grape was not only a yummy treat for early peoples but the Seminoles used the vines to make deer snares!

















The knees (roots that stick up out of the ground) of the Bald Cypress tree were hollowed out and used for bowls, cups, and other containers.

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A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA



When the wood from the

Red Mangrove burns it

fire that is perfect for firing

pottery and cooking!

creates a high temperature



The Sawarass plant was used to make small woven baskets.

