

Bhagirathi Bal Shiksha Sadan Sec. School

Class-IV, Sub.-G.K., Lesson-9 'Our green friends'

We call plants our green friends as we depend a lot on them. They provide us with many useful things such as medicines, fruits, vegetables, clothes, timber, etc.

Fill in the blanks.

1. Cotton is soft fibre that grows around seeds.
2. Quinine is obtained from the bark of the Cinchona tree.
3. Teak is called the 'king of the woods'.
4. Natural rubber is obtained from the sap of the latex plant.
5. The sweet, fleshy, yellow fruits of mango tree are eaten fresh and are also used raw for making pickles.
6. Banyan tree has a huge crown and it grows special pillar-like roots to support itself.
7. The hard wood of salwood tree is used to make doors, windows and furniture.
8. Popularly known as 'Nariyal', coconut tree is type of palm tree with brown and green nuts filled with sweet, refreshing water.
9. Deodar are tall trees that grow in the mountains where it is very cold. They have cones and needle-like leaves.
10. Eucalyptus oil is obtained from leaf of the eucalyptus tree.



Plants that Heal

In earlier times, people used parts of certain plants such as bark, leaves, seeds and flowers to cure wounds, infections and diseases. Even today, herbal cures and remedies like Ayurveda are getting very popular.

Given below is the description of some plants with medicinal properties. Identify them and write their names using the help box.

Fenugreek Coconut Tulsi Neem Sandal Amla

Do You Know?

Neem has many medicinal properties. Its dried stem is used as a substitute for tooth brush. Neem water is used to guard against small pox.

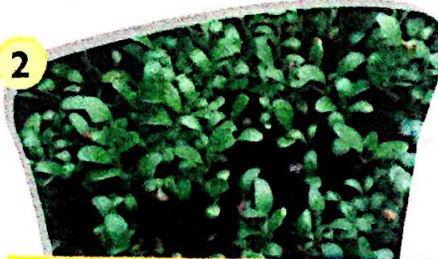
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Neem

The oil of this plant is an excellent antibiotic. Its leaves are very bitter in taste, but cure many skin diseases.

2



Fenugreek

The bitter leaves and seeds of this plant help in improving digestion.

3



Sandal

The paste of this plant's wood is good for acne and other skin infections. Its oil is used to make expensive perfumes.

4



Coconut

It grows in coastal regions and its fruit is full of natural fibre. Oil from this fruit is edible and is also good for skin and hair.

5



Amla

Also called the Indian gooseberry, its fruit helps in better digestion, strengthens bones and increases hair growth.

6



Tulsi

This is also sometimes called the 'king of herbs' and is a sacred plant. It helps in curing cold, dental problems and even fever.

General Knowledge - 4



11 Carnivorous Plants

Carnivorous plants use a number of techniques to capture their prey. These include traps such as pitfall, snap, flypaper and bladder.

Given below are clues about some carnivorous plants. Identify them and write their names using the help box.

Sundew Corkscrew Bladderwort
Venus Flytrap Pitcher Plant

Do You Know?

Some carnivorous plants smell very sweet and produce lots of nectar. They are also very bright in colour to attract their prey.

1. Venus Flytrap is a carnivorous plant that has pairs of thick, padded leaves. When a fly touches the hairs – SNAP – the leaves shut like two powerful jaws.



2. Pitcher plant is shaped like a pitcher. The top and inside of the pitcher is filled with a slippery, sweet-smelling nectar. When insects are attracted towards nectar, they slip and fall into the pitcher.



3. Sundew secretes a sticky substance that acts like flypaper. The leaves sparkle and look like dew glistening in the sun, which is actually a glue-like substance that traps the insects once they land on it. Once trapped, the leaves pull the insect closer and begin digestion.



4. Corkscrew is mostly found in water and contains sacs that have hinge-like door openings. They suck in prey like a vacuum and close the door.



5. Bladderwort contains small bladder-like sacs along the stem. When the prey touches the sac, the trap opens automatically and the prey is sucked in with water.

