# SCIENCE

# INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND PLANT CONSERVATION

## Vocabulary

- Plants that are at risk of extinction in The Bahamas are called **endangered plants.**
- **Conservation** is the wise use and careful management of resources.
- **Indigenous plants** are those plants that are native to The Bahamas.

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- These include lignum vitae, gale of wind, life leaf, pigeon plum, goose berry, rooster comb and fever grass.
- A variety of plants found in The Bahamas have medicinal value.
- **Medicinal plants** are referred to as **bush medicine** in The Bahamas. Popular plants used for health purposes include cerasee, rooster comb, life leaf, love vine and aloe.

Some plants are used to treat a variety of ailments including worms, high blood pressure, diabetes, diarrhea, asthma and gas.

Plants are very important to us. We use materials we get from plants for food, making clothing, construction of homes, boats and shelter and for making tools and weapons.

According to Scientist:

- As the human population increases, people clear land to build new roads, farms, houses, shopping centers, malls, airports and other infrastructure.
- These actions change the natural environment and can result in the loss of many plant groups.

Plants that are at risk of extinction in The Bahamas are called **endangered plants.** Lignum vitae, mahogany (Madeira) and the Caribbean pine are endangered indigenous plants.

To save plants, we must conserve them. **Conservation** is the wise use and careful management of resources.

## Ways to conserve plants are:

- Plant endangered plants in your garden and in their natural habitats.
- Buy native plants instead of non-native ones
- Do not cut or burn down native plants.
- Do not use endangered plants for building or any form of money making.
- Volunteer at organization such as Bahamas National Trust to help to protect plants in The Bahamas.
- Recycle, reduce, reuse

LIVEWORKSHEETS