

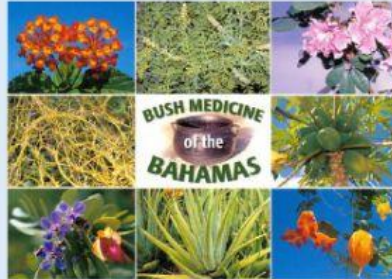
Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension

Bush Medicine

Read the passage. Answer all questions.



Bahamians have used native plants for medicine for hundreds of years. This practice, called 'bush medicine', was brought to the Bahamas by African slaves. Over 100 plants in The Bahamas are used to cure ailments such as colds, diarrhea, flu and headaches. There are even bush medicine treatments for diseases such as leukemia and cancer! The use of bush medicine became important in the family islands where doctors were rarely available. Cat Islanders believe that bush medicine gives them long life and keeps them healthy.

In the preparation of bush medicine various parts of the plants are utilized. Sometimes, the entire plant is put into the mixture. It is believed that dried leaves are more effective than freshly picked ones and that when using the leaves, odd numbers should always be used. Some of the most popular bush medicines include Aloe, Love Vine, and Cerasee.

When preparing, wash the parts of the plants properly before brewing. Cover leaves or plant parts with water and simmer in an uncovered cast iron pot, so if toxins are present they will escape. When the desired strength is reached remove from the heat. Let stand for a minute or two. Strain to remove any residue. Your tea or medicine is now ready to be enjoyed!

Adapted from the following sources: an article by Martha Hanna-Smith and from information found on the website: www.bahamasgateway.com

1. According to the passage what is used by Bahamians to make medicine?

Pharmaceuticals are used to make medicine.

Bahamians don't make medicine.

Plants are used to make bush medicine.

2. Why was it necessary for Family Islanders to use bush medicine when they became sick?

Doctors were rarely available during that time.

Doctors came on Tuesdays and Thursdays by boat.

They did not want doctors to take care of them.

3. What illnesses are mentioned in the passage? Select three

Diarrhea Covid 19 headaches diabetes cancer

4. What evidence in paragraph TWO suggests that the plants are kept for a number of days before being used as medicine?

According to the passage, odd numbers should always be used.

According to the passage, various parts of the plant are used.

According to the passage, dried leaves are more effective.

5. What special benefits do Cat Islanders believe they have gotten from the use of bush medicine?

Cat Islanders believe bush medicines are better than doctors.

Cat Islanders believe all illnesses are cured by bush medicine.

Cat Islanders believe that bush medicine gives them long life and keeps them healthy.

6. Using the numbers 1-4 order the steps to show how bush medicine is made.

_____ Filter to get rid of any plant bits

_____ Let plant boil slowly

_____ Allow mixture to cool for a short while

_____ Clean plants carefully

7. Select the statement that is a fact.

Bush medicine should not be used to treat illnesses.

Bush medicine is sometimes used to treat illnesses

Bush medicine is not better than pharmaceuticals

Bush medicine is better than pharmaceuticals