Lesson 11

Indigenous Plants

Indigenous plants are those plants that are native to The Bahamas. These include **Lignum Vitae, Gale of wind, Life Leaf, Pigeon Plum, Goose Berry, Rooster Comb** and **Fever Grass**.

Varieties 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**.

They 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. As the human population increases, people clear land to build new roads, farms, houses, shopping centres, 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. The act of conserving plants is to do all we can to protect them from becoming extinct.

Ways to conserve plants are: -

a. Plant endangered plants in your garden and their natural habitats.
b. Buy native plants instead of non-native ones.
c. Do not cut or burn down native plants.
d. Do not use endangered plants for building or any form of money making.
e. Volunteer at organizations such as BNT helps to protect plants in The Bahamas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What are indigenous plants? [2]

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2. What is another name for medicine plants? [1]

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3. Name TWO aliments we use medicine plants for? [2]

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4. Give TWO ways we can conserve plants. [2]

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5. As the population increases, many of our trees are being cut down. According to the passage, what can be TWO disadvantages of the cutting down of the trees. [2]

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6. Define the term extinction. [2]

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LIVEWORKSHEETS