

Ethnobotany Story #1

You and your companions have set out to go fishing for trout. On the way you realize that you've forgotten to bring cordage for the fishing hooks. You decide you better look for some good material for cordage so you can make some more [Plant A]

As you gather the cordage materials one of you cuts yourself slightly with a knife so you hunt for one of the good plant that helps stop bleeding and also acts as a disinfectant. [Plant B].

By this time everyone is pretty hungry (you thought you would have caught some fish by now) so you look for a good plant to snack on some berries [Plant C].

As you are looking around for a good berry plant to snack on, someone gets stung by stinging nettle, so you find a good plant to help ease the pain of nettle sting [Plant D].

You also decide to find another plant to snack on since you are still hungry [Plant E].

By now everyone is pretty tired so everyone decides to take a nap, but the ground is so hard you decide to make a soft mattress, so you hunt for just the right plants to make a mattress [Plant F].

After your naps you finally make it to the fishing hole and realize that could also go spear fishing so you go to the plant that makes good spears and cut a branch [Plant G].

You need to sand the spear nice and smooth so you go find some good sandpaper plant [Plant H].

You finally catch some fish which you prepare to cook on a good leaf for preparing foods, and you can also use as a plate [Plant I]. To cook the trout you make a nice fire using bark tinder from one plant [Plant J] and make some hot coals from the bark from this fire plant [Plant K].

The trout is so delicious you eat all the trout you catch and head home. On the way you make up a good story about what happened to all of the good fish you caught (Bear and Raven are the main characters).

Ethnobotany Story #2

You and your companions have decided it's time to start gathering berries for winter storage. So you decide to head up river to the good berry picking grounds. On the way the canoe overturns and you lose a bunch of baskets, so now you've got to make some quick berry baskets. You find a good plant for making emergency baskets [Plant A].

You need some handles for the basket so you find a good plant for cordage and make some rope handles [Plant B].

When you finally get to the important berry grounds you start picking some delicious berries [Plant C].

After a while, everyone gets hungry and you decide to make some berry nut pudding, (Mmmmm!). So you start a fire using bark tinder [Plant D] and pitch and bark from another plant [Plant E].

While some of you are making a fire, others are gathering some nuts from the nut tree [Plant F].

You need to mash your berries on something so you find one of the plants with good leaves for preparing foods [Plant G] and then cook it in one of the emergency baskets you made [Plant A].

You use branches from the tool plant to make fire tongs to take the hot rocks out of the fire [Plant H].

But one of you does get a slight burn while removing rocks from the fire so you treat the burn with this plant [Plant I].

You find the plant with the just the right leaves to serve food on as a plate [Plant J].

The berry nut pudding is delicious. After eating you decide to freshen your breath with this plant (Plant K).

By now everyone is ready to go home with all of the berries that they picked on such a fun day. On the way home you invent a song to sing about your wonderful berry-picking day...

Ethnobotany Story #3

Today is a good day to make some tools for the summer camp. First you go to the best plant to make spears and arrows and harvest some branches [Plant A].

While cutting the branches one of you get startled by a Raven flying over and get a small cut so you find one of the plants that work well for stopping bleeding and disinfecting cuts [Plant B].

You also go to the tree that makes great mallets and remove some of those branches [Plant C]. You make a nice mallet for the camp.

You decide to fire harden some of the spears so they are really hard so you start a small hot fire using bark tinder and kindling from a good tree [Plant D]. You remove some big chunks of bark for hot fire coals from this tree [Plant E] using the mallet you made.

As you fire harden the spears some smoke gets in your eye and you find the plant good for making an eyewash to rinse your eye [Plant F]

After shaping the mallets with a knife you decide you want to sand them nice and smooth so you go find the sandpaper plant [Plant G].

But unfortunately nettle likes to grow in the same place as the sandpaper plant, so several of you get nettle stings so you quick look for a plant that will heal the nettle sting [Plant H].

By now everyone is hungry so you go pick some berries to snack on from a berry plant [Plant I] and also look for some nuts from the nut tree [Plant J]. Raven comes visiting just as you begin eating and you toss a few nuts his way.

You realize you've gathered so many materials you need to tie them together so you make some strong cordage from a cordage plant [Plant K] bundle everything up and head back to the village.

As you walk back to the village Raven follows along the trail calling and clucking as you walk. You decide to make up a Raven song as you head back to village and share it around the night fire with the rest of the village.

Ethnobotany Survival Story Activity

Plants and their specific use (related to stories)

Take students to these plants and identify them, then tell them these specific uses. Students can take notes, or may be asked to memorize their uses for the story activity.

Western Red Cedar- cordage (inner bark), emergency baskets (bark), fire tinder (inner bark)

Show: Inner bark sample, cedar cordage, folded cedar bark shredded inner bark tinder

Big Leaf Maple- mallet (wood), plates/food preparation (leaves), fire, tinder (inner bark)

Show: maple mallet, live leaves, shredded inner bark sample

Douglas Fir- Fire (bark makes good hot coals, pitch makes a quick hot fire)

Show: bark sample with pitch

Western Hemlock- snack (new growth), fire tinder/kindling (dead branches), mattress (boughs)

Show: new growth (if spring), fire tinder bundle, live branches

Black cottonwood- heals burns, cuts (resinous buds)

Show: smell live buds (winter spring), cottonwood bud salve

Hazelnut- snack (nut)

Show: hazelnut, beaked nut sample

Indian Plum- snack (berry)

Show: live berry if present

Oregon grape- important berry, snack (berry, new leaves), medicine for cuts (leaves, bark)

Show: berry if present, new leaves if present, inner bark sample

Salal- important berry, snack (berry, new leaves), medicine for cuts (leaves), stops bleeding (leaves)

Show: berry if present, new leaves if present, demonstrate masticating leaf for medicine on cuts

Horsetail (Big Finn Hill) – sandpaper (stalk), nettle sting (leaves/stalk) *Show: dried horsetail stalk bundle*

Swamp lantern (Big Finn Hill) - food prep, storage, emergency basket (leaves)

Show: live leaf if possible

Stinging nettle (Big Finn Hill)- cordage (stalks)

Show: nettle cordage, nettle fiber stalk.

Oceanspray- spears/arrows/tools handles (branches), fire tongs (branches)

Show: oceanspray branches live, branch sample

Sword fern- mattress (leaves), burns, nettle sting (leaves/spore)

Show: leaves and spore from live plant

Wild rose- snack (hips), eyewash (leaves), freshen breath (hips)

Show: rose hips if present, sample dried rose hips

Violets- snack (new leaves, flowers)

Show: live plant and flowers if present

Dewberry- important berry, snack (berry)

Show berry if present

Ethnobotany Survival Story Activity
Correct plant and use table (related to stories)

Use this table to check whether students correctly labeled plants needed to survive in their stories. The letter corresponds with the Plant letter in the story. If there is more than one plant that may be used for the same survival need, students only need to pick one.

Story #1	Story #2	Story #3
<p>Plant) Survival needs: Useful plant/s</p> <p>A) Cordage: <i>Nettle, Red cedar</i></p> <p>B) Stop bleeding: <i>Yarrow, Salal</i></p> <p>C) Berries: <i>Salal, Dewberry, Indian plum, Oregon grape,</i></p> <p>D) Nettle sting: <i>Sword fern, Horsetail,</i></p> <p>E) Snack: <i>Salal, Oregon grape, Wild rose, Western hemlock, Hazelnut, Indian plum, Violets</i></p> <p>F) Mattress: <i>Sword fern, Western hemlock</i></p> <p>G) Spears/arrows: <i>Oceanspray</i></p> <p>H) Sandpaper: <i>Horsetail</i></p> <p>I) Food Prep: <i>Big leaf maple, Swamp lantern</i></p> <p>J) Fire Tinder: <i>Red cedar, Western Hemlock, Big leaf maple</i></p> <p>K) Hot Coals: <i>Douglas fir</i></p>	<p>Plant) Survival needs: Useful plant/s</p> <p>A) Emergency basket: <i>Cedar, Swamp lantern</i></p> <p>B) Cordage: <i>Red cedar, Nettle</i></p> <p>C) Berries: <i>Salal, Dewberry, Oregon grape</i></p> <p>D) Tinder, kindling: <i>Red cedar, Big leaf maple, Western hemlock</i></p> <p>E) Pitch/bark: <i>Douglas fir</i></p> <p>F) Nuts: <i>Hazelnut</i></p> <p>G) Food preparation: <i>Big leaf maple, Swamp lantern</i></p> <p>H) Fire tong: <i>Oceanspray</i></p> <p>I) Burn: <i>Sword fern, cottonwood</i></p> <p>J) Plate: <i>Big leaf maple</i></p> <p>K) Freshen breath: <i>Wild rose</i></p>	<p>Plant) Survival needs: Useful plant/s</p> <p>A) Spears/Arrows: <i>Oceanspray</i></p> <p>B) Cuts: <i>Yarrow, Salal, Black cottonwood</i></p> <p>C) Mallet: <i>Big leaf maple</i></p> <p>D) Fire tinder/kindling: <i>Cedar, Big leaf maple, Western hemlock</i></p> <p>E) Fire/Bark: <i>Douglas fir</i></p> <p>F) Eyewash: <i>Wild rose</i></p> <p>G) Sandpaper: <i>Horsetail</i></p> <p>H) Nettle sting: <i>Sword fern, Horsetail</i></p> <p>I) Berries: <i>Salal, Dewberry, Oregon grape, Indian plum,</i></p> <p>J) Nuts: <i>Hazelnut</i></p> <p>K) Cordage: <i>Red cedar, Nettle</i></p>