

Change detectives

Indigenous perspectives curriculum links

Explore

Lesson 2 Session 3 Evocative evaporation

Some Indigenous people use native plants for medicinal purposes, treating ailments such as headaches and stomach aches. Crushing the leaves of the melaleuca, eucalyptus and prostanthera (mint) species releases the vapours of the essential oils.

- Use tea tree oil or eucalyptus oil as demonstration essence in this lesson.
- Research the medicinal use of plants by Indigenous people.
See www.maningrida.com/mac/bwc/documents/traditional_aboriginal_medicine_practice.pdf

Note: Permission is needed to collect plants from public bushlands and national parks.

Lesson 3 Slippery solutions

Many bush foods are potentially poisonous if ingested and need to be prepared with specific techniques before they are safe to eat. Over thousands of years, Indigenous people have developed a knowledge of which bush foods are poisonous and how they need to be treated to remove toxins.

- Create a poster illustrating different techniques Indigenous people used to remove toxins from bush foods. See www.anbg.gov.au/education/bush-food/Canberra-Times-Bushfoods.pdf (page 4)
- Explore a method of removing toxins (leaching) using sweet potato. See *Removing the Toxins* www.anbg.gov.au/education/bush-food/Canberra-Times-Bushfoods.pdf (page 5)

Lesson 4 Candle capers

Charcoal is used by some Indigenous people as a pigment for painting.

- Research the use of charcoal in traditional and contemporary Indigenous art.
See www.aboriginalartstore.com.au/aboriginal-art-culture/aboriginal-art-paintings