

Useful plants at Kew: Which plants are useful in our daily lives and beyond?

Mediterranean Garden



Lavender



Olive



Sage +



Cork oak



Stone pine



Rosemary +

Temperate House



Kiwi



Aloe



Tea plant



Angel's trumpet +



Bush lily +



Japanese banana



Sago palm

Common outdoor plants



Yarrow +



Foxglove +



Chamomile



Oak tree



Cherry



Pine tree



Snowdrop +



Stinging nettle +



Sweet chestnut

Hint: Plants provide us with food, building materials, textiles, and furniture. Many plants have medicinal properties too. Even common ones, for example stinging nettles, have been used traditionally for their anti-inflammatory and allergy-relief benefits. Others, such as snowdrops, contain compounds used in modern medicines for Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders.

+ Plant with medicinal properties

Challenge:

Look for five useful plants at Kew. Take note of their names and key characteristics. Can you discover other ways these plants are used? Check the signage or do a quick online search to learn more.

Key vocabulary:

scientific name, biome, medicinal, material, textile, sustainable, crop

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Common name	Scientific name	Description (leaf shape, colour, smell, etc.)	Location	Uses (building material, food, textile, furniture, medicine, etc.)