

Maori Uses of Native Plants

Names : _____

1. This plant is _____

Guess what early Maori might have used the parts of this plant for :

Leaves : _____

Trunk : _____

2. This plant is _____

This plant has toxic oil in its leaves. Hold the leaf card up to the light.

What does the oil in the leaves look like? _____

Early Maori crushed up these leaves and rubbed them on their bodies.
Why would you rub toxic oil on your own skin?

3. This plant is _____

Berries from this tree were only eaten in emergencies if food ran out
because they taste very bitter.

How could you recognise this plant from all the others if you were starving
and need food?

4. This plant is _____

Guess what early Maori might have used the parts of this plant for :

Leaves : _____

Gum : _____

5. This plant is _____

This tree has yellow flowers in spring and is named after the colour of these flowers.

What do you think early Maori extracted from the flowers?

6. This plant is _____

The hollow stem of this plant helped students to learn. How do you think it was used?

Students also chewed the root end of a plant with a similar name to help them memorise. How could chewing help your memory ?

7. This plant is _____

When woven this plant produced a waterproof covering. What could early Maori have used this material for?

8. This plant is _____

The leaves of this tree were sometimes used by a man to charm a woman who had refused to see him. The tree is easily recognised by the smell of the crushed leaves?

What do the crushed leaves smell like? (Please be gentle with them)

How do you think he would have used the leaves to charm her?

9. This plant is _____

Chewing the fresh leaves of this bush stops diarrhoea.

Why do dried leaves not have the same effect?

10. This plant is _____

Larger specimens of these trees were used to build waka, which could hold up to 100 warriors. The bark of this tree was also widely used.

What do you think the bark could be used for?
