



## Theme: Springs Preserve Archaeology (grades 9 to 12)

### Sub Theme: Examination of Tools and Natural Materials used by Early and Late Native American Tribes in Southern Nevada

## Post Visit Activity #1

### They Used What?

#### Overview

Native Americans used plants for medicines, food, fibers, dyes, and other purposes. Much of this knowledge has been gained from archeology and anthropology studies.

Students will research how Native Americans in Nevada used plants for medicines, food, fibers, dyes, and other purposes using the following book: *Native American Ethnobotany* by Daniel E. Moerman, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, Copyright 1998. *North American Ethnobotany* is a comprehensive account of the plants used by Native American peoples for medicine, food, and other purposes. The author devoted more than 25 years to the compilation of the ethnobotanical knowledge slowly gathered over the course of many centuries and recorded in hundreds of first hand studies of American Indians made over the past 150 years, documenting Native American use of 4029 kinds of plants with a total of 44,691 usages.

#### Objectives

- Understand the importance of scientific and archeological research.
- Learn how to properly use a reference guide to cross reference.
- Learn how the Native Americans used plants for sustainable living.

#### Materials

- North American Ethnobotany book
- Pencil
- Pen
- Computer
- Procedures

Using this book as a framework for their research, the students will identify a Native American tribe located within the state of Nevada or from Western states (this is the teacher's choice). Note: Teacher's should ensure that student's pick different tribes.

After choosing a tribe, students need to cross reference the tribe with a plant of their choice. Upon finding a plant, students need to write a five paragraph paper, each paragraph containing five sentences, explaining their tribe, what specific plant the Native Americans used and three different uses of the plant. After completing the paper, students will create a five minute oral presentation, where they will speak about the information they wrote in the paper.