

Name: _____

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Grammar Ditto

The Healing Power of Plant Poisons

When European settlers came to the Americas they discovered that the native inhabitants have a rich knowledge of medicine. Natives use the leaves of certain plants, or the bark of certain trees. To cure ailments common to their region. As part of their defense system most plants contain chemicals that will poison people or animals. But if someone is sick those plant defenses can "poison" the person back to health, for example if someone has a heart condition in which their heart beats too fast, doctors might use a chemical to slow the heart down from a plant. Much of modern medicine is based on these basic botanical principles.



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