

Plant Uses in the Jarrah Forest

- Glue Making with Indigenous Plants

Topic: Rehabilitation

You Will Need

- Gum/sap from grass tree xanthorrea – should be a hard lump
- Dry Kangaroo droppings
- Charcoal
- Stick
- Small flame (ensure fire safety rules are applied)
- Small rock or quartz
- Water.

What You Need To Do

- Crush the sap
- Mix the Kangaroo droppings and charcoal with the sap ensuring all are crushed together into a powder
- Traditionally Aboriginal people would dip the end of a stick into water then the powder then heat the end of the stick over an open fire. HOW can this be done safely in the lesson?
- As the powder is heated it softens and melts. Continue to heat and dip the end of the stick into the powder until there is a nice quantity of glue on the end of the stick.
- If making a tool, press the small rock or piece of quartz into the glue (the stick can have a slit cut into it prior to starting for a sliver of quartz to be slid into). Continue heating and working the glue until the small rock or quartz is firmly held
- Allow to cool.

Extension/Alternatives

- Research the different uses of plants in the Jarrah forest.
- What else could the glue be used for?

Curriculum Links

Society & Environment: Investigation, Communication & Participation, Place and Space, Resources, Culture, Time Continuity and Change, Active Citizenship - Ecological Sustainability

Science: Natural and Processed Materials

Technology and Enterprise: Technology in Society

Values

5. Environmental Responsibility - Cultural heritage