

Name:

Date:

Period:



ETHNOBOTANY BASICS

What is ethnobotany? Ethno + Botany = Ethnobotany
people + study of plants = the study of the interactions of people with plants

Ethnobotany is an interdisciplinary science, which includes aspects of both sciences and humanities. Ethnobotany can serve as a gateway to many different disciplines like the ones listed. Define and analyze how the disciplines below are relevant to the study of ethnobotany.

Discipline	Definition:	Relevance to Ethnobotany
1. Agriculture		
2. Agroforestry		
3. Anthropology		
4. Archeology		
5. Botany		
6. Chemistry		
7. Ecology		
8. Economics		
9. Forestry		
10. Horticulture		
11. Linguistics		
12. Medicine		
13. Religious Studies		
14. Sociology		
15. Systematics		

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Discipline	Definition: (from Webster's Dictionary)	Relevance to Ethnobotany
1. Agriculture	the science, art, or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock	How humans have domesticated and managed plants, especially in traditional agriculture systems
2. Agroforestry	land management involving the growing of trees in association with food crops or pastures	How humans have managed the land for the simultaneous production of food, crops, and trees
3. Anthropology	the study of human beings and their ancestors through time and space and in relation to physical character, environmental and social relations, and culture	How different cultures use plants
4. Archeology	the scientific study of material remains (as fossil relics, artifacts, and monuments) of past human life and activities	Paleoethnobotany - how ancient cultures used plants
5. Botany	a branch of biology dealing with plant life	The study of the structure and composition of plants
6. Chemistry	a science that deals with the composition, structure, and properties of substances and with the transformations that they undergo	The study of the composition of substances and active chemicals in plants, especially medicinal plants
7. Ecology	a branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environments	How human interactions with plants and ecosystems affect plant ecology
8. Economics	a social science concerned chiefly with description and analysis of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services	Economic botany - the economic uses of plants
9. Forestry	the science of developing, caring for, or cultivating forests	The human management of forests and forest trees
10. Horticulture	the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants	The management of useful plants (fruits, vegetables, ornamentals) in home gardens or orchards
11. Linguistics	the study of human speech including the units, nature, structure, and modification of language	The terminology for plants and plant parts by people of different language groups
12. Medicine	a substance or preparation used in treating disease	How humans use plants for medicinal purposes
13. Religious Studies	the study of religious faith, practice, and experience	Ritual uses of plants by different cultures and religions
14. Sociology	the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behavior of organized groups of human beings	How humans use plants in various societies
15. Systematics	the classification and study of organisms with regard to their natural relationships	Folk-taxonomy, how different people classify plants

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1. Agriculture		How humans have domesticated and managed plants, especially in traditional agriculture systems
2. Agroforestry		How humans have managed the land for the simultaneous production of food, crops, and trees
3. Anthropology		How different cultures use plants
4. Archeology		Paleoethnobotany - how ancient cultures used plants
5. Botany		The study of the structure and composition of plants
6. Chemistry		The study of the composition of substances and active chemicals in plants, especially medicinal plants
7. Ecology		How human interactions with plants and ecosystems affect plant ecology
8. Economics		Economic botany - the economic uses of plants
9. Forestry		The human management of forests and forest trees
10. Horticulture		The management of useful plants (fruits, vegetables, ornamentals) in home gardens or orchards
11. Linguistics		The terminology for plants and plant parts by people of different language groups
12. Medicine		How humans use plants for medicinal purposes
13. Religious Studies		Ritual uses of plants by different cultures and religions
14. Sociology		How humans use plants in various societies
15. Systematics		Folk-taxonomy, how different people classify plants