

Spices made from fragrant tropical plants have long been used to flavour food. The great voyagers of exploration of the 1400s, like those of Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama, were motivated to find ways to reach sources of spices in Southeast Asia.

Read the clues and identify these spices. Write their names in the blank spaces given below.



It is the inner bark of a laurel tree native to Sri Lanka. It was once more valuable than gold.

Cinnamon



This aromatic spice is also known as saunf.

Fennel



This is the yellow stigma of the purple flower of crocus. It is the most costly of all spices.

Saffron



It is the berries of a myrtle tree native to West Indies. It gets its name because it has taste of many spices.

Allspice



This spice comes in the shape of a bulb, consisting many small bulblets called 'cloves'.

Garlic



These are dried buds of a large green tree that grows in the Moluccas.

Cloves



These are three-sided oval capsules containing 15-20 dark, reddish to brown black, hard angular seeds.

Cardamom

FACT FILE

In the past, Chinese courtiers sucked cloves to make their breath smell sweet for the emperor!

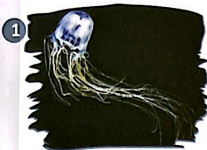


- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| a. Allspice | b. Cardamom |
| c. Cinnamon | d. Saffron |
| e. Garlic | f. Cloves |
| g. Fennel | |

Know More

- ❑ Arabs thought that the word 'Sesame' had great magical powers. 'Ali Baba and 40 Thieves' Ali Baba says 'Open Sesame' to open a door.
- ❑ In ancient Greece and Rome, people often paid their taxes in peppercorns!

Read the descriptions of these deadly creatures. Try to identify them and write their names.



This bell-shaped sea creature has long tentacles, covered with stinging cells. These cells explode when touched and inject poison into the victim. Its poison can kill a human in 30 seconds.



It is a small, venomous arachnid known for its distinctive black body with a red hourglass shaped mark on the abdomen. Its venom can cause discomfort and sometimes serious symptoms in humans.



This wingless wasp has a nasty sting. It uses its sting to inject poison in animals. It is so dangerous that it is often called the 'cow killer'.

Box Jellyfish

Black widow spider

Velvet ant



This is the world's largest poisonous snake, growing to over 5 metres. When about to strike, it spreads the skin of its neck in a hood.



This American snake kills its victims by making their blood clot. Its venom has been used to treat people suffering from haemophilia.



This deadly creature of Africa can race along at 25 km/hr with its head raised and its tongue flickering. It is one of the most poisonous snakes.

Cobra

Viper

Black mamba

Know More



- Tarantulas and sun spiders crush their victims with their powerful jaws.
- Spiders have eight eyes, but most have poor eyesight.



Cobra
Black widow spider
Velvet ant

Black mamba
Viper
Box jellyfish



Many animals are not actually what they are called. They have misleading names. Given below are names of some such animals.

Write their correct names in the blanks using the Help Box.

1



The flying fox is not a fox but it is a bat.

2



The prairie dog is not a dog but it is a rodent.

3



The tufted titmouse is not a mouse but it is a bird.

4



The American buffalo is not a buffalo but it is a bison.



- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| a. marsupial | b. rodent |
| c. bison | d. lizard |
| e. bird | f. fish |
| g. fox | h. bat |

5



The sea-horse is not a horse but it is a fish.

6



The maned wolf is not a wolf but it is a fox.

7



The Komodo dragon is not a dragon but it is a lizard.

8



The koala bear is not a bear but it is a marsupial.

Know More



- ☐ Koalas spend about 18 hours a day sleeping. Rest of the time they feed on the leaves of eucalyptus trees.
- ☐ A koala baby spends 6 months in its mother's pouch and another 6 months riding on her back.





Reptiles are scaly-skinned animals that live in warm regions. They include crocodiles, lizards, tortoises and snakes.

Read the clues and identify these reptiles. Pictures on the page will help you.



Gila monster

1. This poisonous lizard is found in North America. It has poisonous glands in its lower jaw and when it bites, venom washes around the teeth is chewed into the wound of the victim.

Gila monster

2. This snake has fangs at the back of its mouth rather than the front.

Boomsnake

3. This lizard's body is covered with a mass of spikes as sharp as thorns. Although it looks so fierce, it is quite harmless and eats only ants.

Moloch

4. This snake can glide up to 35 metres from one tree to another. Growing up to 1 metre long, it feeds on small lizards.

Paradise snake

5. Most reptiles live in warm areas but this reptile is able to survive on the small cold island of New Zealand.

Tuatara

6. This Australian snake lives in a termites' nest, where it feeds on termites. Surprisingly, the soldier termites do not attack the snake because the snake smells like the termites.

Blind Snake

7. This lizard squirts a jet of blood from its eyes to its attacker. The blood spray irritates its enemy's eyes, which then runs away.

Horned lizard

8. This lizard has no legs and lives all its life under ground. It has no eyes, although it can hear, it has no ear opening.

Florida worm lizard



Tuatara



Blind snake



Horned lizard



Florida worm lizard



Moloch



Paradise snake

Know More



- ☐ The draco lizard can fly up to 15 metres between trees, using its special wings.
- ☐ The tuatara grows slowly taking 20 years to reach a length of about 60 cm!

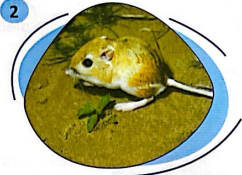
QUIZ

Read the ways how some animals survive in the desert.
Write their names using the Help Box.



This bird flies hundreds of kilometres every night to reach water pools. It collects water in its feathers.

Sand Grouse



This small animal of California's Death Valley saves water by eating its own droppings.

Kangaroo Rat



This animal in the Sahara Desert survives without water because it gets all its water from its food.

Addax



This desert animal survives through long droughts by sleeping five or six days a week.

Mojave Squirrel



This animal has big ears through which it loses heat. This way it keeps itself cool in the burning desert.

Fennec Fox



This animal hides from the burning sun by burying itself in the sand. Only its eyes are above the sand.

Dwarf Puff Adder

Know More

- ❑ The antelope jack rabbit loses heat through its big ears.
- ❑ The African fringe-toed lizard dances to keep cool lifting each foot in turn off the hot sand.



Fennec Fox	Kangaroo Rat
Dwarf Puff Adder	Addax
Sand Grouse	Mojave Squirrel

Identify the following **medicinal** plants and write their names.



The seeds of this plant cure dysentery and constipation.

Isabgul



The leaves of this plant are helpful in curing bronchitis.

Vasaka



The leaves of this tree cure skin diseases.

Neem



The seeds of this plant are used as painkiller and sedative.

Poppy



The fruits of this plant cure of scurvy. They are rich in vitamin C.

Amla



The roots of this plant lowers high blood pressure.

Rauwolfia

FACT FILE

Vincristine is a drug made from the Madagascar periwinkle that helps children fight cancer.



Isabgul
Vasaka

Haridra
Poppy

Rauwolfia
Neem Amla



The stem of this plant cures asthma and cold.

Know More



- Withania somnifera is commonly known as Ashwagandha (winter cherry), is an important medicinal plant.
- The leaves, roots, bark, fruit, seeds, flowers are used to reduce stress and inflammation, improves sleep and memory and manages blood sugar.

