

Medicinal Mystique: I See a tree... the Indians Saw a toothbrush!



In *The Ghosts of Pickpocket Plantation*, the main character, Terry, encounters a Confederate soldier lost in the forest. He is struggling to survive. Native Americans learned the secrets of the forests through trial and error. Later, they passed this valuable forest “how to” down to the colonists.

See if you can match the forest resource to its possible use! Read carefully and you’ll discover some hints in the “use” column! Write each resource’s number next to its description.

Natural Resource:

1-Blackberry leaves and roots

2-Dog fennel

3-Black birch leaves

4-Yellowroot

5-Black birch cambium (the green part under the bark)

6-Black birch twigs

Indians used for...

___ Its oil of wintergreen was used for aches and pains

___ Chewed to relieve a stomachache or steeped to make a soothing tea

___ Used as a toothbrush

___ Indians used to help clot blood; Civil War doctors used to treat wounds; if you had any leftover, you could make pie!

___ Good for gums, mouth, and the skin, if you don't mind looking like a banana!

___ Used to make a tonic to calm nerves, even of an excitable puppy

