

GLOSSARY

Aconite - Any of various, usually poisonous **perennial** herbs of the genus *Aconitum*, having tuberous roots, palmately lobed leaves, blue or white flowers with large hoodlike upper sepals, and an aggregate of follicles.

Acuminate - Tapering gradually to a sharp point, as the tips of certain leaves.

Alkaloid - Any of various organic compounds normally with basic chemical properties and usually containing at least one nitrogen atom in a heterocyclic ring, occurring chiefly in many vascular plants and some fungi. Many alkaloids, such as nicotine, quinine, cocaine, and morphine, are known for their poisonous or medicinal attributes.

Alleviate - To make (pain, for example) more bearable

Almond - A deciduous tree (*Prunus dulcis*), native to Asia and northern Africa and having alternate, simple leaves, pink flowers, and leathery fruits

Analgesic - A medication that reduces or **eliminates pain**.

Anesthetic - A drug that causes **temporary loss** of bodily sensations

Anthropology - The scientific study of the origin, the behavior, and the physical, social, and cultural development of human beings.

Anticholinergics - agent that functions by competing with the neurotransmitter acetylcholine for its receptor sites at synaptic junctions. Anticholinergics are used to treat **spastic disorders** of the gastrointestinal tract, to reduce salivary and bronchial secretions before surgery, or to dilate the pupil. Some anticholinergics reduce parkinsonian symptoms but are never considered primary agents for therapy. Atropine in large doses stimulates the central nervous system and in small doses acts as a depressant. Among numerous cholinergic blocking agents are atropine, belladonna, glycopyrrolate, hyoscyamine, methixene hydrochloride, trihexyphenidyl hydrochloride, and scopolamine

Anticoagulant - A substance that prevents the clotting of blood.

Antidote - A remedy or other agent used to neutralize or counteract the effects of a poison.

Antihistamine - A drug used to counteract the physiological effects of histamine production in allergic reactions and colds.

Antiquity - Ancient times, especially the times preceding the Middle Ages.

Aphrodisiac - Arousing or intensifying sexual desire.

Apricot - A deciduous Asian tree (*Prunus armeniaca*) having alternate leaves and clusters of usually white flowers.

Arid - Lacking moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support trees or woody plants

Aromatic - Having an aroma; fragrant or sweet-smelling

Aspirin - A white, **crystalline** compound, $\text{CH}_3\text{COOC}_6\text{H}_4\text{COOH}$, derived from salicylic acid and commonly used in tablet form to **relieve** pain and reduce fever and inflammation. Also called *acetylsalicylic acid*.

Assyria - An ancient empire and civilization of western Asia in the upper valley of the Tigris River. In its zenith between the ninth and seventh centuries B.C. the empire extended from the Mediterranean Sea across Arabia and Armenia.

Asthma - A chronic respiratory disease, often arising from allergies, that is characterized by sudden recurring attacks of labored breathing, chest constriction, and coughing.

Astringent - Tending to draw together or constrict tissues; [styptic](#).

Atropine - A poisonous, bitter, crystalline alkaloid, $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_3$, obtained from belladonna and other related plants. It is used to dilate the pupils of the eyes and as an antispasmodic.

Avicenna - Persian physician and philosopher noted for his *Canon of Medicine*, a standard medical textbook used in Europe until the 17th century.

Ayurveda - (Sanskrit: *Āyurveda*, the "the complete knowledge for long life") or **ayurvedic medicine** is a system of traditional medicine native to India and practiced in other parts of the world as a form of alternative medicine. In Sanskrit, the word *ayurveda* consists of the words *āyus*, meaning "**longevity**", and *veda*, meaning "related to **knowledge**" or "science". The **Susruta Samhita** and the **Charaka Samhita** were influential works on traditional medicine. Over the following centuries, ayurvedic practitioners developed a number of medicinal preparations and surgical procedures for the treatment of various **ailments** and diseases

Bald - Lacking a natural or usual covering

Barley- A grass in the genus *Hordeum*, native to temperate regions, having flowers in terminal, often long-awned spikes.

Bast fiber - Any of various durable fibers obtained from the phloem or from tissues outside the phloem. These fibers include flax, hemp, jute, and ramie and are used for textiles and cordage.

Bean - Any of various New World twining herbs of the genus *Phaseolus* in the pea family, having leaves with three leaflets, variously colored flowers, and edible pods and seeds.

Berry - An [indehiscent](#) fruit derived from a single ovary and having the whole wall fleshy, such as the grape or tomato.

Betony - Any of several plants of the widespread genus *Stachys* in the mint family, especially *S. officinalis*, native chiefly to Europe and having spikes of usually reddish-purple flowers. It was once popular in herbal medicine. Also called *woundwort*.

Beverage - Any one of various liquids for drinking, usually excluding water.

Biennial - Having a life cycle that normally takes two growing seasons to complete.

Bilious - Of, relating to, or containing bile; biliary

Blister - A local swelling of the skin that contains watery fluid and is caused by burning or irritation.

Bowel - The intestine

Brew - To make (a beverage) by boiling, steeping, or mixing various ingredients

Bronchial - Of or relating to the bronchi, the bronchia, or the bronchioles.

bulb - A short, modified, underground stem surrounded by usually fleshy modified leaves that contain stored food for the shoot within

Buoyant - Having or marked by buoyancy

Calyx - The sepals of a flower considered as a group

Cannabis - A tall, annual dioecious plant (*Cannabis sativa*), native to central Asia and having alternate, palmately divided leaves and tough [bast fibers](#).

Canon - An established principle

Capsule - A dry, dehiscent fruit that develops from two or more united carpels.

Cashew - A tropical American evergreen tree (*Anacardium occidentale*) widely cultivated for its edible nutlike kernels

Cedar - Any of several Old World evergreen **coniferous** trees of the genus *Cedrus*, having stiff needles on short shoots and large, erect seed cones with broad **deciduous** scales.

Cherry - Any of several trees or shrubs of the genus *Prunus*, especially *P. avium* or *P. cerasus*, native chiefly to northern temperate regions and having pink or white flowers and small, juicy drupes

Choler - One of the four humors of the body thought in the Middle Ages to cause anger and bad temper when present in excess; yellow bile

Cinchona - Any of several trees and shrubs of the genus *Cinchona*, native chiefly to the Andes and cultivated for bark that yields the medicinal alkaloids quinine and quinidine, which are used to treat malaria.

Cinnamon - The dried aromatic inner bark of certain tropical Asian trees in the genus *Cinnamomum*, especially *C. verum* and *C. loureirii*, often ground and used as a spice.

Clinical - Very objective and devoid of emotion; analytical

Colchicine - A poisonous, pale-yellow alkaloid, $C_{22}H_{25}NO_6$, obtained from the autumn crocus and used in plant breeding to induce chromosome doubling and in medicine to treat gout.

Concoction - A combination of various ingredients, usually herbs, spices, condiments, powdery substances or minerals, mixed up together, minced, dissolved or macerated into a liquid so as they can be ingested or drunk

Condiment - A sauce, relish, or spice used to season food.

Cone - A unisexual reproductive structure of gymnospermous plants such as conifers and cycads, typically consisting of a central axis around which there are scaly, overlapping, spirally arranged sporophylls that develop pollen-bearing sacs or naked ovules or seeds

Conifer - Any of various mostly needle-leaved or scale-leaved, chiefly evergreen, cone-bearing gymnospermous trees or shrubs such as pines, [spruces](#), and [firs](#).

Connate - United to a structure of the same kind, as one petal to another

Contraceptive - A device, drug, or chemical agent that prevents conception

Convolute - Having numerous overlapping coils or folds

Corm - A short, thick, solid, food-storing underground stem, sometimes bearing papery scale leaves, as in the crocus or [gladiolus](#).

Corolla - The petals of a flower considered as a group or unit.

Corymb - A usually flat-topped flower cluster in which the individual flower stalks grow upward from various points of the main stem to approximately the same height.

Crocus - Any of various **perennial Eurasian** herbs of the genus *Crocus*, having grasslike leaves and showy, variously colored flowers.

Croton - Any of various plants of the genus *Croton*, which includes the sources of cascarilla bark and croton oil.

Cuisine - A characteristic manner or style of preparing food

Culinary - Of or relating to a kitchen or to **cooking**.

Culture - The totality of socially transmitted behavior patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought

Cyme - A usually flat-topped or convex flower cluster in which the main axis and each branch end in a flower that opens before the flowers below or to the side of it

Date palm - A palm tree (*Phoenix dactylifera*) of western Asia and northern Africa and cultivated also in California, having featherlike leaves and bearing clusters of dates.

De Materia Medica - The term 'materia medica' derived from the title of a work by the Greek physician Pedanius Dioscorides in the 1st century AD, entitled *De materia medica libri quinque* in Latin, concerning medical matter in five volumes. This famous commentary covered about 500 plants along with a number of therapeutically useful animal and mineral products. It is a precursor to all modern pharmacopeias, and is considered one of the most influential herbal books in history. It remained in use until about CE 1600.

Deadly Nightshade - A poisonous Eurasian perennial herb (*Atropa belladonna*) having usually solitary, nodding, purplish- brown, bell-shaped flowers and glossy black berries.

Deciduous - Shedding or losing foliage at the end of the growing season

Decongestant - A medication or treatment that breaks up congestion, as of the sinuses, by reducing swelling.

Decongestant - A medication or treatment that breaks up congestion, as of the sinuses, by reducing swelling.

Deliriant (or anticholinergics) are a special class of acetylcholine-inhibitor hallucinogen. The name comes from their primary effect of inducing a medical state of frank delirium.

Delirium - A temporary state of mental confusion and clouded consciousness resulting from high fever, intoxication, shock, or other causes. It is characterized by anxiety, disorientation, hallucinations, delusions, trembling, and incoherent speech.

Diabetes - Any of several metabolic disorders marked by excessive discharge of urine and persistent thirst, especially one of the two types of diabetes mellitus.

Diarrhea - Excessive and frequent evacuation of watery feces, usually indicating gastrointestinal distress or disorder.

Disciple - One who embraces and assists in spreading the teachings of another

Doctrine of signatures is a philosophy shared by herbalists from the time of Dioscorides and Galen. This doctrine states that herbs that **resemble various parts of the body** can be used to treat ailments of that part of the body. Examples include the plants liverwort; snakeroot, an antidote for snake venom; lungwort; bloodroot; toothwort; and wormwood, to expel intestinal parasites. A theological justification was made for this philosophy: "It was reasoned that **the Almighty must have set his sign upon the various means of curing disease which he provided.**" The concept is still reflected in the common names of some plants whose shapes and colors reminded herbalists of the parts of the body where they were thought to do good. Scientists see the doctrine of signatures as superstition. There is no scientific evidence that plant shapes and colors help in the discovery of medical uses of plants

Douche - A stream of water, often containing medicinal or cleansing agents, that is applied to a body part or cavity for **hygienic** or **therapeutic** purposes

Down - A covering of soft, short hairs, as on some leaves or fruit.

Dropsy – Edema

Drupaceous - Resembling, relating to, or consisting of a [drupe](#)

Drupe - A fleshy fruit, such as a peach, plum, or cherry, usually having a single hard stone that encloses a seed. Also called stone fruit

Eczema - A noncontagious inflammation of the skin, characterized chiefly by redness, itching, and the outbreak of lesions that may discharge serous matter and become encrusted and scaly.

Edema Or Oedema - An excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue spaces or a body cavity.

Edible - Fit to be eaten.

Emollient - Softening and soothing, especially to the skin.

Enigma - One that is puzzling, **ambiguous**, or inexplicable.

Enlightenment - A philosophical movement of the 18th century that emphasized the use of reason to scrutinize previously accepted doctrines and traditions and that brought about many humanitarian reforms

Ephedrine - A white, odorless, powdered or crystalline alkaloid, $C_{10}H_{15}NO$, isolated from shrubs of the genus *Ephedra* or made synthetically. It is used in the treatment of allergies and asthma.

Eurasia - The land mass comprising the continents of Europe and Asia.

Eurasian - Of or relating to Eurasia

Fir - Any of various evergreen trees of the genus *Abies*, having single, flattened needles and erect cones with deciduous scales

Flax - Any of several plants of the genus *Linum*, especially the widely cultivated *L. usitatissimum*, having blue flowers, seeds that yield [linseed](#) oil, and slender stems from which a textile fiber is obtained

Foliage - Plant leaves, especially tree leaves, considered as a group

Folk Medicine - Traditional medicine as practiced by nonprofessional healers or embodied in local custom or [lore](#), generally involving the use of natural and especially herbal remedies.

Foxglove - Any of several herbs of the genus *Digitalis*, especially *D. purpurea* of Europe, having a long cluster of large, tubular, pinkish-purple flowers and leaves that are the source of the drug digitalis.

Fragrant - Having a pleasant odor.

Gargle - To force exhaled air through a liquid held in the back of the mouth, with the head tilted back, in order to cleanse or medicate the mouth or throat.

Garlic - An onionlike plant (*Allium sativum*) of southern Europe having a bulb that breaks up into separable cloves with a strong, distinctive odor and flavor.

Genitalia - The reproductive organs, especially the external sex organs; the genitals.

Gin - A strong, colorless alcoholic beverage made by distilling or redistilling rye or other grain spirits and adding juniper berries or aromatics such as anise, caraway seeds, or angelica root as flavoring.

Ginseng - Any of several plants of the genus *Panax*, especially *P. pseudoginseng* of eastern Asia or *P. quinquefolius* of North America, having small greenish flowers grouped in umbels, palmately compound leaves, and forked roots believed to have medicinal properties.

Glabrous - Having no hairs, projections, or [pubescence](#); smooth

Gladiator - A person, usually a professional combatant, a captive, or a slave, trained to entertain the public by engaging in mortal combat with another person or a wild animal in the ancient Roman arena.

Gladiolus - Any of numerous plants of the genus *Gladiolus*, native chiefly to tropical and southern Africa and having sword-shaped leaves and showy, variously colored, irregular flowers arranged in one-sided spikes. Also called *sword lily*.

Glaucoma - Any of a group of eye diseases characterized by abnormally high intraocular fluid pressure, damaged optic disk, hardening of the eyeball, and partial to complete loss of vision.

Gout - A disturbance of uric - acid metabolism occurring predominantly in males, characterized by painful **inflammation of the joints**, especially of the feet and hands, and arthritic attacks resulting from elevated levels of uric acid in the blood and the **deposition of urate crystals around the joints**. The condition can become chronic and result in deformity.

Grape - Any of numerous woody vines of the genus *Vitis*, bearing clusters of edible berries and widely cultivated in many species and varieties.

Hallucination - False or distorted perception of objects or events with a compelling sense of their reality, **usually** resulting from **a mental disorder** or as a response to a drug

Hallucinogen - A substance that induces [hallucination](#).

Heal - To restore to health or soundness; cure.

Healer - One that heals or attempts to heal, especially a faith healer

Hemorrhoid - An itching or painful mass of dilated veins in **swollen** anal tissue.

Henbane - A poisonous Eurasian plant (*Hyoscyamus niger*) having an unpleasant odor, sticky leaves, and funnel- shaped greenish- yellow flowers. It is a source of the drug hyoscyamine.

Herbalism - A traditional medicinal or folk medicine practice based on the use of plants and plant extracts. Herbalism is also known as botanical medicine, medical herbalism, herbal medicine, herbology, and phytotherapy

Herbalism - a traditional medicinal or folk medicine practice based on the use of plants and plant extracts. Herbalism is also known as **botanical medicine, medical herbalism, herbal medicine, herbology, and phytotherapy.**

Herbalist - One who grows, collects, or specializes in the use of herbs, especially medicinal herbs.

Herbalist - One who grows, collects, or specializes in the use of herbs, especially medicinal herbs.

Hippocrates - Greek physician who laid the foundations of scientific medicine by freeing medical study from the constraints of philosophical speculation and superstition. He is traditionally but inaccurately considered the author of the [Hippocratic oath](#).

Humor - One of the four fluids of the body, blood, phlegm, choler, and black bile, whose relative proportions were thought in ancient physiology to determine a person's disposition and general health.

Hyoscyamine - A poisonous white crystalline alkaloid, $C_{17}H_{23}NO_3$, isometric with atropine and having similar uses but more potent effects.

Hypertension - Arterial disease in which chronic high blood pressure is the primary symptom.

Inconspicuous - Not readily noticeable.

Indehiscent - Not splitting open at maturity.

Indian Hemp - Cannabis

Indigenous - Originating and growing or living in an area or environment.

Indigestion - Inability to digest or difficulty in digesting something, especially food

Inflorescence - A characteristic arrangement of flowers on a stem

Inflorescence - A flower cluster

Ingredient - An element in a mixture or compound; a constituent. See synonyms at element.

Lacquer – Any of various clear or colored synthetic coatings made by dissolving nitrocellulose or other cellulose derivatives together with plasticizers and pigments in a mixture of volatile solvents and used to impart a high gloss to surfaces.

Lanceolate - Tapering from a rounded base toward an apex; lance-shaped

liana - Any climbing, woody, usually tropical vine.

Lilac - A pale to light or moderate purple.

Linen - Thread made from fibers of the [flax](#) plant.

Lore - Accumulated facts, traditions, or beliefs about a particular subject. See synonyms at knowledge

Lotus - An aquatic plant (*Nelumbo nucifera*) native to southern Asia and Australia, having large leaves, fragrant, pinkish flowers, a broad, rounded, perforated seedpod, and fleshy rhizomes

Malaria - An infectious disease characterized by cycles of chills, fever, and sweating, caused by the parasitic infection of red blood cells by a protozoan of the genus *Plasmodium*, which is transmitted by the bite of an infected female anopheles mosquito. Also called *paludism*, *swamp fever*.

Mandrake - A southern European plant (*Mandragora officinarum*) having greenish- yellow flowers and a branched root. This plant was once believed to have magical powers because its root resembles the human body

Manure - Material, especially barnyard or stable dung, often with discarded animal bedding, used to fertilize soil.

Mastic - The aromatic resin of the mastic tree, used especially in varnishes, lacquers, adhesives, and condiments and as an astringent.

Mastic tree - A small evergreen shrub (*Pistacia lentiscus*) of the Mediterranean region, cultivated for its resin

Mauve - A moderate grayish violet to moderate reddish purple.

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) - is a herbaceous perennial plant in the family Berberidaceae, native to wooded areas of eastern North America.

Meadow - A tract of grassland, either in its natural state or used as pasture or for growing hay.

Medicament - An agent that promotes recovery from injury or ailment; a medicine.

Mellow - Soft, sweet, juicy, and full-flavored because of ripeness

Mesopotamia - An ancient region of southwest Asia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern- day Iraq. Probably settled before 5000 B.C., the area was the home of numerous early civilizations, including Sumer, Akkad, Babylonia, and Assyria. It declined in importance after Mongol invaders destroyed its extensive irrigation system in A.D. 1258.

Middle Ages - The period in European history between antiquity and the Renaissance, often dated from A.D. 476 to 1453.

Midrib - The central or principal vein of a leaf.

Midwife (Bidan) - A person, usually a woman, who is trained to assist women in childbirth

Monkshood - A slender, erect, poisonous perennial herb (*Aconitum napellus*) native to northern Europe, having violet flowers and whose dried leaves and roots yield aconite. Also called *wolfsbane*.

Monocot - A [monocotyledon](#)

Monocotyledon - Any of various flowering plants, such as grasses, orchids, and lilies, having a single cotyledon in the seed.

Morphine - A bitter, crystalline alkaloid, $C_{17}H_{19}NO_3 \cdot H_2O$, extracted from opium, the soluble salts of which are used in medicine as an analgesic, a light anesthetic, or a sedative.

Myrrh - An aromatic gum resin obtained from several trees and shrubs of the genus *Commiphora* of India, Arabia, and eastern Africa, used in perfume and incense.

Mystical - Of or having a spiritual reality or import not apparent to the intelligence or senses.

Myth - A traditional, typically ancient story dealing with supernatural beings, ancestors, or heroes that serves as a fundamental type in the world view of a people, as by explaining aspects of the natural world or delineating the psychology, customs, or ideals of society

Nausea - A feeling of sickness in the stomach characterized by an urge to vomit

Nero - Emperor of Rome (54-68) whose early reign was dominated by his mother, Agrippina the Younger. He had his mother and wife murdered,

and he may have set the Great Fire of Rome (64). His cruelty and irresponsibility provoked widespread revolts, which led to his suicide.

Nutmeg – An evergreen tree (*Myristica fragrans*) native to the East Indies and cultivated for its spicy seeds.

nux vomica - A tree (*Strychnos nux-vomica*) native to southeast Asia, having poisonous seeds that are the source of the medicinal alkaloids strychnine and brucine

nux vomica - A tree (*Strychnos nux-vomica*) native to southeast Asia, having poisonous seeds that are the source of the medicinal alkaloids strychnine and brucine.

Odoriferous - Having or giving off an odor.

Ointment - A highly viscous or semisolid substance used on the skin as a cosmetic, an [emollient](#), or a [medicament](#); a salve.

Olive - A Mediterranean evergreen tree (*Olea europaea*) having fragrant white flowers, usually lance-shaped leathery leaves, and edible **drupes**.

Onion - A bulbous plant (*Allium cepa*) cultivated worldwide as a vegetable.

Opium - A bitter, yellowish-brown, strongly addictive narcotic drug prepared from the dried juice of unripe pods of the opium poppy and containing alkaloids such as morphine, codeine, and papaverine.

Oral - Used in or taken through the mouth

Oral Tradition - The spoken relation and preservation, from one generation to the next, of a people's cultural history and ancestry, often by a storyteller in narrative form.

Ornamental - Of, relating to, or serving as an ornament or a decoration.

Panacea - A remedy for all diseases, evils, or difficulties; a cure- all.

Panicle - A branched cluster of flowers in which the branches are [racemes](#).

Papyrus - A tall, aquatic, Mediterranean sedge (*Cyperus papyrus*) having numerous drooping rays grouped in umbels. Also called *Egyptian paper rush*, *paper plant*.

Pedicel - A small stalk, part, or organ, especially one serving as a support

Peduncle - The stalk of an inflorescence or a stalk bearing a solitary flower in a one-flowered inflorescence

Pendent - Hanging down; dangling; suspended.

Perennial - Living three or more years.

Perforated - Having a hole or holes, especially a row of small holes.

Petal - A unit of a corolla, usually showy and colored

Petiole - The stalk by which a leaf is attached to a stem. Also called *leafstalk*.

Pharmacognosy - The branch of pharmacology that deals with drugs in their crude or natural state.

Pharmacology - Pharmacology is the study of drugs - what they are, how they work and what they do. It includes the study of the manner in which the function of living tissues and organisms is modified by chemical substances and the study of the effect of chemical agents on living processes.

Pharmacopoeia - A book containing an official list of medicinal drugs together with articles on their preparation and use.

Phlebotomy - The act or practice of opening a vein by incision or puncture to remove blood as a therapeutic treatment. Also called *venesection*.

Phlegm - Thick, sticky, stringy mucus secreted by the mucous membrane of the respiratory tract, as during a cold or other respiratory infection.

Physostigmine - a cholinergic alkaloid usually obtained from dried ripe seed of *Physostigma venenosum* (Calabar bean).

pistachio - A deciduous tree (*Pistacia vera*) of central and western Asia, having pinnately compound leaves and dry, drupaceous, nutlike fruits.

Podophyllotoxin (abbreviated as **PPT**) - otherwise known as podofilox, is a non-alkaloid toxin lignan extracted from the roots and rhizomes of *Podophyllum* species. Under the trade name **Condylox**, a topical gel, it is used on the skin to treat external genital warts, caused by some types of the human papillomavirus (HPV). PPT and its derivatives display a wide selection in medical applications such as purgative, vesicant, antirheumatic, antiviral, and antitumor agents. These derivatives include etoposide, teniposide, and etopophos. Their anticancer activity has been heavily under study and used in various chemotherapies, including lung cancer, lymphomas, and genital tumors.

Poison Hemlock - A deadly poisonous European plant (*Conium maculatum*) widely naturalized in North America, having bipinnately compound leaves and compound umbels of small, white flowers.

Pome - A fleshy fruit, such as an apple, a pear, or a quince, having several seed chambers and an outer fleshy part largely derived from the hypanthium. Also called *false fruit*.

Pomegranate - A deciduous shrub or small tree (*Punica granatum*) native to Asia and widely cultivated for its edible fruit.

Poppy - Any of numerous plants of the genus *Papaver*, having nodding buds with four crumpled petals, showy red, orange, or white flowers, a milky juice, and capsules that dehisce through terminal pores.

Poultice (tuam)- A soft, moist mass of bread, meal, clay, or other adhesive substance, usually heated, spread on cloth, and applied to warm, moisten, or stimulate an aching or inflamed part of the body. Also called *cataplasma*.

Preservative - Tending to preserve or capable of preserving.

Prototype - An original type, form, or instance that serves as a model on which later stages are based or judged.

Psychoactive - Affecting the mind or mental processes. Used of a drug.

Pubescent - Covered with short hairs or soft down

pulp - The soft, moist part of fruit.

Pungent - Affecting the organs of taste or smell with a sharp, acrid sensation.

Purgative (julap) - Tending to cleanse or purge, especially causing evacuation of the bowels.

Pyrene - The stone of certain fruits, such as the cherry

Quinine - A bitter, colorless, amorphous powder or crystalline alkaloid, $C_{20}H_{24}N_2O_2 \cdot 3H_2O$, derived from certain cinchona barks and used in medicine to treat malaria.

Raceme - An [inflorescence](#) having stalked flowers arranged singly along an elongated, unbranched axis, as in the lily of the valley.

Raisin - A sweet grape dried either in the sun or by artificial means.

Reed - Any of various tall **perennial** grasses, especially of the genera *Phragmites* or *Arundo*, having hollow stems, broad leaves, and large plumelike terminal [panicles](#)

Remedy - Something, such as medicine or [therapy](#), that relieves pain, cures disease, or corrects a disorder.

Reserpine - A white to yellowish powder, $C_{33}H_{40}N_2O_9$, isolated from the roots of certain species of rauwolfia and used as a sedative and an antihypertensive.

Resin - Any of **numerous** clear to translucent yellow or brown, solid or semisolid, viscous substances of plant origin, such as copal, rosin, and amber, used principally in [lacquers](#), varnishes, inks, adhesives, synthetic plastics, and pharmaceuticals.

Rheumatic - Of, relating to, or suffering from [rheumatism](#).

Rheumatism - Any of several pathological conditions of the muscles, tendons, joints, bones, or nerves, characterized by discomfort and disability.

Rhizome - A horizontal, usually underground stem that often sends out roots and shoots from its nodes. Also called *rootstalk*, *rootstock*.

Rosette - A circular cluster of leaves that radiate from a center at or close to the ground, as in the dandelion.

Sacred - Made or declared holy

Salicylic acid - A white crystalline acid, $C_6H_4(OH)(COOH)$, used in making aspirin, as a preservative, and in the external treatment of skin conditions such as [eczema](#).

Salve - An analgesic or medicinal ointment

Sarcophagi - A plural of [sarcophagus](#).

Sarcophagus - A stone coffin, often inscribed or decorated with sculpture.

Satin - A smooth fabric, as of silk or rayon, woven with a glossy face and a dull back.

Scopolamine - A thick, syrupy, colorless alkaloid, $C_{17}H_{21}NO_4$, extracted from plants such as henbane and used as a [mydriatic](#), sedative, and truth serum. Also called *hyoscine*.

Scriptures - A sacred writing or book

Sedative - Having a soothing, **calming**, or tranquilizing effect; reducing or relieving **anxiety**, stress, **irritability**, or **excitement**.

Sedge - Any of numerous grasslike plants of the family Cyperaceae, having solid stems, leaves in three vertical rows, and spikelets of **inconspicuous** flowers, with each flower subtended by a scalelike bract.

Serrate - Having or forming a row of small, sharp, projections resembling the teeth of a saw

Shaman - A member of certain tribal societies who acts as a medium between the visible world and an invisible spirit world and who practices magic or sorcery for purposes of healing, divination, and control over natural events.

shrub - A woody plant of relatively low height, having several stems arising from the base and lacking a single trunk; a bush.

Snakeroot - Any of various plants, such as black cohosh, rattlesnake master, sanicle, or wild ginger, having roots reputed to cure snakebite.

Socrates - Greek philosopher who initiated **a question- and- answer method** of teaching as a means of achieving self- knowledge. His theories of virtue and justice have survived through the writings of Plato, his most important pupil. Socrates was tried **for corrupting the minds of Athenian** youth and subsequently put to death.

Soothe - To ease or relieve (pain, for example)

Sorcery - Use of supernatural power over others through the assistance of spirits; witchcraft

Sow - To scatter (seed) over the ground for growing

Spice - Any of various pungent, aromatic plant substances, such as cinnamon or nutmeg, used to flavor foods or beverages.

Spike - A usually elongated, unbranched inflorescence with stalkless flowers arranged along an axis

Spruce - Any of various coniferous evergreen trees of the genus *Picea*, having needlelike foliage, drooping cones, and soft wood often used for paper pulp.

Spur - A tubular or saclike extension of the corolla or calyx of a flower, as in a columbine or larkspur.

Spurge - Any of various plants of the genus *Euphorbia*, characteristically having **milky juice** and small unisexual flowers that are surrounded by a **cuplike structure**

Stimulant - An agent, especially a chemical agent such as caffeine, that temporarily arouses or accelerates physiological or organic activity.

Stout - Strong in body; sturdy.

Styptic - Contracting the tissues or blood vessels; astringent

Superstition - An irrational belief that an object, an action, or a circumstance not logically related to a course of events influences its outcome

Sycamore fig - A fig tree (*Ficus sycomorus*) of Africa and adjacent southwest Asia, mentioned in the Bible, having clusters of figs borne on short leafless twigs.

Tamarisk - Any of numerous African and Eurasian shrubs or small trees of the genus *Tamarix*, having small scalelike leaves and racemes of white, pink, or red flowers.

Theophrastus - Greek philosopher who succeeded Aristotle as leader of the Peripatetics and refined the work of Aristotle in botany and natural history.

Therapeutic - Having or exhibiting healing powers

Therapy - Treatment of illness or disability

Thigh - The portion of the human leg between the hip and the knee.

Thrombosis: - The formation or presence of a blood clot in a blood vessel. The vessel may be any vein or artery as, for example, in a deep vein thrombosis or a coronary (artery) thrombosis. The clot itself is termed a thrombus. If the clot breaks loose and travels through the bloodstream, it is a thromboembolism. Thrombosis, thrombus, and the prefix thrombo - all come from the Greek thrombos meaning a lump or clump, or a curd or clot of milk

Tincture - A coloring or dyeing substance; a pigment

Tonic - An **invigorating**, refreshing, or **restorative** agent or influence.

Topical - Applied to an isolated or localized area of the body.

Tradition - The passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation, especially by oral communication.

Treatise - A systematic, usually extensive written discourse on a subject

Tribe - A unit of social organization consisting of a number of families, clans, or other groups who share a common ancestry, culture, and leadership.

Twig - A young shoot representing the current season's growth of a woody plant.

Undulate - To give a wavelike appearance or form to.

Vaginitis - Inflammation of the vagina. Also called colpitis.

Varnish - A paint containing a solvent and an oxidizing or evaporating binder, used to coat a surface with a hard, glossy, transparent film.

Vedas - Any of the oldest and most authoritative Hindu sacred texts, composed in Sanskrit and gathered into four collections.

Vedas - The Vedas are considered the earliest literary record of Indo-Aryan civilization, and the most sacred books of India. They are the original scriptures of Hindu teachings, and contain spiritual knowledge encompassing all aspects of our life. Vedic literature with its philosophical maxims has stood the test of time and is the highest religious authority for all sections of Hindus in particular and for mankind in general. "Veda" means wisdom, knowledge or vision, and it manifests the language of the gods in human speech. The laws of the Vedas regulate the social, legal, domestic and religious customs of the Hindus to the present day. All the obligatory duties of the Hindus at birth, marriage, death etc. owe their allegiance to the Vedic ritual. They draw forth the thought of successive generation of thinkers, and so contain within it the different strata of thought.

Venomous - Secreting and transmitting venom

Vermifuge - A medicine that expels intestinal worms.

Vesication - The process of vesicating, or of raising blisters; the formation of vesicles

Vine - A weak-stemmed plant that derives its support from climbing, twining, or creeping along a surface.

Wheat - Any of various annual cereal grasses of the genus *Triticum* of the Mediterranean region and southwest Asia, especially *T. aestivum*, widely cultivated in temperate regions in many varieties for its commercially important edible grain.

Willow - Any of various deciduous trees or shrubs of the genus *Salix*, having usually narrow leaves, unisexual flowers borne in catkins, and strong lightweight wood.

Witchcraft - Magic; sorcery

Woodland - Land having a cover of trees and shrubs.

Wound - An injury, especially one in which the skin or other external surface is torn, pierced, cut, or otherwise broken.

Wreath - A ring or circlet of flowers, or leaves worn on the head, placed on a memorial, or hung as a decoration

Yellow bile - [Choler](#)

Yew - Any of several poisonous evergreen trees or shrubs of the genus *Taxus*, having scarlet cup-shaped seeds and flat needles that are dark green above and yellowish below.

Syconium - The fleshy multiple fruit of the fig, consisting primarily of the enlarged, hollow, globose floral receptacle open at the apex and containing numerous fruitlets.

Wasp - Any of numerous social or solitary insects, chiefly of the superfamilies Vespoidea and Sphecoidea, having a slender body with a constricted abdomen, two pairs of membranous wings, mouths adapted for biting or sucking, and in the females an ovipositor often modified as a sting.

Belladonna - A poisonous Eurasian perennial herb (*Atropa belladonna*) having usually solitary, nodding, purplish-brown, bell-shaped flowers and glossy black berries. Also called *deadly nightshade*.

Peyote - A spineless, dome-shaped cactus (*Lophophora williamsii*) native to Mexico and the southwest United States, having buttonlike tubercles that are chewed fresh or dry as a narcotic drug by certain Native American peoples. Also called *mescal*.

Mescaline - An alkaloid drug, $(\text{CH}_3\text{O})_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$, obtained from mescal (peyote) buttons, which produces hallucinations. Also called *peyote*.

LSD - A crystalline compound, $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_3\text{O}$, derived from lysergic acid and used as a powerful hallucinogenic drug. Also called *acid*, *lysergic acid diethylamide*

Psilocybin - A hallucinogenic compound, $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}(\text{20})\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{P}_2$, obtained from the mushroom *Psilocybe mexicana*.

Tactile - Perceptible to the sense of touch; tangible

Serotonin - An organic compound, $C_{10}H_{12}N_2O$, formed from tryptophan and found in animal and human tissue, especially the brain, blood serum, and gastric mucous membranes, and active in vasoconstriction, stimulation of the smooth muscles, transmission of impulses between nerve cells, and regulation of cyclic body processes.

Locoweed - Any of several plants of the genera *Oxytropis* and *Astragalus* in the pea family, which are widespread in the western and central United States and cause severe poisoning when eaten by livestock. Also called *crazyweed*, *loco*

Locoism - A disease of livestock caused by locoweed poisoning and characterized by weakness, lack of coordination, trembling, and partial paralysis

Theobromine - A bitter, colorless alkaloid, $C_7H_8N_4O_2$, derived from the cacao bean, found in chocolate products and used in medicine as a diuretic, vasodilator, and myocardial stimulant.

Caffeine - A bitter white alkaloid, $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$, often derived from tea or coffee and used in medicine chiefly as a mild stimulant and to treat certain kinds of headache.

Nicotine - A colorless, poisonous alkaloid, $C_{10}H_{14}N_2$, derived from the tobacco plant and used as an insecticide. It is the substance in tobacco to which smokers can become addicted.

Coniine - A poisonous, colorless liquid alkaloid, $C_5H_{10}NC_3H_7$, found in the poison hemlock.

Strychnine - An extremely poisonous white crystalline alkaloid, $C_{21}H_{22}O_2N_2$, derived from nux vomica and related plants, used as a poison for rodents and other pests and topically in medicine as a stimulant for the central nervous system.

Solanine - A bitter poisonous alkaloid, $C_{45}H_{73}NO_{15}$, derived from potato sprouts, tomatoes, and nightshade and having narcotic properties formerly used to treat epilepsy.

Curare - A dark resinous extract obtained from several tropical American woody plants, especially *Chondrodendron tomentosum* or certain species of *Strychnos*, used as an arrow poison by some Indian peoples of South America.

Aglycone - The nonsugar component of a glycoside molecule that results from hydrolysis of the molecule.

Nausea - A feeling of sickness in the stomach characterized by an urge to vomit

Hippocratic oath - An oath of ethical professional behavior sworn by new physicians, attributed to Hippocrates.

Galen - Greek anatomist, physician, and writer. His theories formed the basis of European medicine until the Renaissance.

Brucine - poisonous white crystalline alkaloid, $C_{23}H_{26}N_2O_4$, derived from the seeds of *nux vomica* and closely related plants and used to denature alcohol.

Dose - A specified quantity of a therapeutic agent, such as a drug or medicine, prescribed to be taken at one time or at stated intervals

Solanaceae - **Solanaceae** is a family of flowering plants that contains a number of important agricultural crops as well as many toxic plants. The name of the family comes from the Latin *Solanum* "the nightshade plant", but the further etymology of that word is unclear. The family is also informally known as the nightshade - or potato family. **The family includes *Datura* (Jimsonweed), *Mandragora* (mandrake), *belladonna* (deadly nightshade), *Capsicum* (paprika, chili pepper), *Solanum* (potato, tomato, aubergine or eggplant), *Nicotiana* (tobacco), and *Petunia* (petunia).** The Solanaceae family is .. characteristically ethnobotanical, that is, extensively utilized by humans. It is an important source of food, spice and medicine. However, Solanaceae species are often rich in alkaloids whose toxicity to humans and animals ranges from mildly irritating to fatal in small quantities.

Euphoria - A feeling of great happiness or well-being

Ergot - A fungus (*Claviceps purpurea*) that infects various cereal plants and forms compact black masses of branching filaments that replace many of the grains of the host plant.

Astragalus - a large genus of about 2,000 species of herbs and small shrubs, belonging to the legume family Fabaceae. The genus is native to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Common names include **milk-vetch** (most species), locoweed (in western US, some species) and **goat's-thorn** (*A. gummifer*, *A. tragacanthus*).

Emaciate - To make or become extremely thin, especially as a result of starvation.

Cytotoxic - Of, relating to, or producing a toxic effect on cells.

Cyanosis - A bluish discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes resulting from inadequate oxygenation of the blood.

Asphyxia - A condition in which an extreme decrease in the amount of oxygen in the body accompanied by an increase of carbon dioxide leads to loss of consciousness or death. Asphyxia can be induced by choking, drowning, electric shock, injury, or the inhalation of toxic gases.

Hydrangea - Any of various shrubs of the genus *Hydrangea*, having opposite leaves and large, flat-topped or rounded clusters of white, pink, or blue flowers.

Linseed - The seed of flax, especially when used as the source of linseed oil; flaxseed.

Elderberry - The small, edible, purplish-black fruit of the common American elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), sometimes used to make wine or preserves.

Amygdalin - A glycoside, $C_{20}H_{27}NO_{11}$, commonly found in seeds and other plant parts of many members of the rose family, such as kernels of the apricot, peach, and bitter almond, which breaks down into hydrocyanic acid, benzaldehyde, and glucose.

Benzaldehyde - A normally colorless aromatic oil, C_6H_5CHO , obtained naturally, as from the bitter almond, or made synthetically and used in perfumes and as a solvent and a flavoring.

arrhythmia - a disorder of the heart rate (pulse) or heart rhythm, such as beating too fast (tachycardia), too slow (bradycardia), or irregularly.

Cardiac arrest - Sudden **cessation** of heartbeat and cardiac function, resulting in the loss of effective circulation

Digoxin - A cardiac glycoside, $C_{41}H_{64}O_{14}$, obtained from the leaves of a foxglove, *Digitalis lanata*, with pharmacological effects similar to digitalis.

Digitoxin - A highly active glycoside, $C_{41}H_{64}O_{13}$, derived from digitalis and prescribed in the treatment of certain cardiac conditions.

Ouabain - A white poisonous glycoside, $C_{29}H_{44}O_{12} \cdot 8H_2O$, extracted from the seeds of the African trees *Strophanthus gratus* and *Acokanthera ouabaio*, that is used as a heart stimulant and by some African peoples as a dart poison.

Saponin - Any of various plant glucosides that form soapy lathers when mixed and agitated with water, used in detergents, foaming agents, and emulsifiers

Laetrile - A drug derived from amygdalin and purported to have [antineoplastic](#) properties.

Antineoplastic - Inhibiting or preventing the growth or development of malignant cells.

Heroin - A white, odorless, bitter crystalline compound, $C_{17}H_{17}NO(C_2H_3O_2)_2$, that is derived from morphine and is a highly addictive narcotic. Also called *diacetylmorphine*.

Cocaine - A colorless or white crystalline alkaloid, $C_{17}H_{21}NO_4$, extracted from coca leaves, sometimes used in medicine as a local anesthetic especially for the eyes, nose, or throat and widely used as an illicit drug for its euphoric and stimulating effects.

Mydriatic - Causing dilatation of the pupils.

Psoralen - Any of a group of chemical compounds found naturally in certain plants that are used in the treatment of [psoriasis](#) and [vitiligo](#).

Psoriasis - A noncontagious inflammatory skin disease characterized by recurring reddish patches covered with silvery scales.

Vitiligo - Partial or total loss of skin pigmentation, often occurring in patches

Aflatoxin - Any of a group of toxic compounds produced by certain molds, especially *Aspergillus flavus*, that contaminate stored food supplies such as animal feed and peanuts.

Carcinogen - A cancer-causing substance or agent

Cathartic - Inducing [catharsis](#); [purgative](#).

Catharsis - Purgation, especially for the digestive system.

Senna - Any of various plants of the genus *Cassia*, having pinnately compound leaves and showy, nearly regular, usually yellow flowers.

Aloe - Any of various chiefly African plants of the genus *Aloe*, having rosettes of succulent, often spiny-margined leaves and long stalks bearing yellow, orange, or red tubular flowers.

Abrin - A poisonous protein found in the seeds of the rosary pea.

Ricin - A poisonous protein extracted from the castor bean and used as a biochemical reagent.

Potent - Exerting or capable of exerting strong physiological or chemical effects

Cholera - An acute infectious disease of the small intestine, caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* and characterized by profuse watery diarrhea, vomiting, muscle cramps, severe dehydration, and depletion of electrolytes. Also called *Asiatic cholera*

Tetanus - An acute, often fatal disease characterized by spasmodic contraction of voluntary muscles, especially those of the neck and jaw, and caused by the toxin of the bacillus *Clostridium tetani*, which typically infects the body through a deep wound. Also called *lockjaw*.

Diphtheria - An acute infectious disease caused by the bacillus *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, characterized by the production of a [systemic](#) toxin and the formation of a false membrane on the lining of the mucous membrane of the throat and other respiratory passages, causing difficulty in breathing, high fever, and weakness. The toxin is particularly harmful to the tissues of the heart and central nervous system.

Proteolysis - The hydrolytic breakdown of proteins into simpler, soluble substances, as occurs in digestion.

Gastroenteritis - nflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines.

Lectin - ny of several plant glycoproteins that bind to specific carbohydrate groups on the plasma membrane of cells, used in the laboratory to stimulate proliferation of lymphocytes and to agglutinate red blood cells.

Raphide - One of a bundle of needlelike crystals of calcium oxalate occurring in many plant cells.

Bloat - To become swollen or inflated

Prostration - Total exhaustion or weakness; collapse

Narcotic - An addictive drug, such as opium, that reduces pain, alters mood and behavior, and usually induces sleep or stupor. Natural and synthetic narcotics are used in medicine to control pain

Hashish - A purified resin prepared from the flowering tops of the female cannabis plant and smoked or chewed as a narcotic or an intoxicant.

Efficacious - Producing or capable of producing a desired effect, effective

Dermatitis - Inflammation of the skin.

Forage - Food for domestic animals; fodder

Slough - A layer or mass of dead tissue separated from surrounding living tissue, as in a wound, a sore, or an inflammation.

Constipation (sembelit) - Difficult, incomplete, or infrequent evacuation of dry, hardened feces from the bowels.

Hemorrhage - Excessive discharge of blood from the blood vessels; profuse bleeding

Epilepsy - Any of various neurological disorders characterized by sudden, recurring attacks of motor, sensory, or psychic malfunction with or without loss of consciousness or convulsive [seizures](#).

Seizure - A sudden attack, spasm, or convulsion, as in epilepsy or another disorder.

Etiology - The branch of medicine that deals with the causes or origins of disease.

Ataxia - Loss of the ability to coordinate muscular movement.

Euglena - Any of various minute single-celled freshwater organisms of the genus *Euglena*, characterized by the presence of chlorophyll, a reddish eyespot, and a single anterior flagellum.

Syphilis - A chronic infectious disease caused by a spirochete (*Treponema pallidum*), either transmitted by direct contact, usually in sexual intercourse, or passed from mother to child in utero, and progressing through three stages characterized respectively by local formation of chancres, ulcerous skin eruptions, and systemic infection leading to general [paresis](#)

Paresis - Slight or partial paralysis.

Tuberculosis - An infectious disease of human beings and animals caused by the tubercle bacillus and characterized by the formation of tubercles on the lungs and other tissues of the body, often developing long after the initial infection.

Bacteremia - The presence of bacteria in the blood.

Toxemia - A condition in which the blood contains toxins produced by body cells at a local source of infection or derived from the growth of microorganisms. Also called *blood poisoning*.

Botulism - A severe, sometimes fatal food poisoning caused by ingestion of food containing botulin and characterized by nausea, vomiting, disturbed vision, muscular weakness, and fatigue.

Systemic - Of, relating to, or affecting the entire body or an entire organism

Neurotoxin - A toxin that damages or destroys nerve tissue

Toxoid - A substance that has been treated to destroy its toxic properties but retains the capacity to stimulate production of antitoxins, used in immunization.

Necrosis - Death of cells or tissues through injury or disease, especially in a localized area of the body.

Spasm - A sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle or group of muscles.

Contortion - To twist, wrench, or bend severely out of shape

Mishmash - A collection or mixture of unrelated things; a hodgepodge.

Diuretic - Tending to increase the discharge of urine.

Chitin - A tough, protective, semitransparent substance, primarily a nitrogen-containing polysaccharide, forming the principal component of arthropod exoskeletons and the cell walls of certain fungi.

Toadstool - An inedible or poisonous fungus with an umbrella-shaped fruiting body.

Ergotism - Poisoning caused by consuming ergot-infected grain or grain products, or from excessive use of drugs containing ergot.

Ruminant - Any of various hoofed, even-toed, usually horned mammals of the suborder Ruminantia, such as cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and giraffes, characteristically having a stomach divided into four compartments and chewing a cud consisting of regurgitated, partially digested food.