Ethnobotany 101 [Dual Credit Program at IAIA]

Structure and Content Ideas for Your First Powerpoint Assignment

* You will choose a plant taxon to focus on. Your focus will be global, and on the path towards current uses and economics. In an 8-10 minute powerpoint, you will report to the class about basic anatomy and biology of the plant or plant group, and where it is found in the world (a map would be nice). Good things to cover might be: history of human use (where did it first arise on the globe; where else was it eventually colonized and by whom; economic and social pressures which affected its dispersal). Tell us about how the plant is grown, harvested, processed, stored (and how that has changed over time). Consider the plant’s evolution and domestication (how do currently marketed examples compare in size, taste, protein content, etc. to older varieties?).

You may choose a single plant, or a group of related plants. It should be a plant or plants useful to man as food; fiber for containers, cordage, clothing; material for building, making tools; or healing, ceremony.

Some Plant taxa to consider (See me if you have other ideas):

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| Groups | Or individual taxa such as: |
| Edible grasses | Corn, wheat, barley, rice |
| Cruciferaeae | Broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sproutsRadishes |
| Solanaceae | Tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant |
| Cucurbitaceae | Squash, gourds |
| Leguminosae | Mature (“dry”) beans, green string beans, peas, lentils, garbanzos |
| Rosaceae: Orchard trees | Apples, plums, cherries, apricots, peaches |
| Annual plants grown for seeds, greens | Quinoa (*Chenopdium*), Amaranth, purslane, tansymustard |
| Wood sources | Conifers, oak, cottonwood/willow |
| Fiber plants | Yucca, agave, *Apocynum*, hemp |
| Container plants | Gourds, coconuts.. |
| Ceremonial/ medicinal plants | Jimsonweed, tobacco |
| Socially significant beverages | Coffee, tea, chocolate, mate |

Questions?:

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