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**Cultural Convergence in the Classroom Student Stories of Medicinal  
Plant Use May Predict New Sources of Pharmaceuticals on the Plant  
Phylogeny**

Plants have been used since antiquity for healing various ailments and afflictions. Medicinal botany is the study of how these plants have been used traditionally as therapeutic agents. In this new course, students will make medicinal plant extracts and test them for antibacterial and antioxidant properties, authenticate herbal supplements, and present a medicinal plant species important to their own cultural background. Throughout the course, students will work collaboratively to compile medicinal plant species including plants presented by their classmates, reconstruct the plant phylogeny on which to

convergence closely related plants used by various cultures for the same medicinal appl