

## Uncovering Traditional Garden Wisdom

**Subjects** English, Social Science

**Years** 9–10

### Learning Intention

Students will investigate and understand traditional gardening techniques used by older generations, to identify sustainable practices and compare them to modern gardening methods.

### Curriculum links

#### English

**Strand: EN 9.1. Listening and Speaking**

**Sub-strand: EN9.1.1 Text types: media, everyday communication, literary texts**

#### Learning Outcome

- EN9.1.1.2 Demonstrate concepts, skills and values respective to listening and speaking skills and relate it to a range of everyday conversation.
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#### Social Science

**Strand:**

**SS 9.3 Place and Environment**

**SS10.3 Place and Environment**

**Sub-strand:**

**SS9.3.1 Mapping**

**SS10.3.1 Geography of Fiji**

#### Learning Outcome

- 9.3.1.2 Explore and justify the importance of conserving our fragile ecological environment and our National heritage to promote environmental sustainability.
- 10.3.1.2 Compare and contrast sustainable and non-sustainable land use to mitigate environmental degradation.
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## Teaching Activity

### Materials required

- People with traditional knowledge who are willing to be interviewed
- Pen and notebook – 1 per student
- Smartphone for filming/recording interview – 1 per student OPTIONAL

### Activity 1: Introducing the Interview Task

**Discuss** the importance of preserving knowledge and traditions. Highlight how older gardening techniques can teach us about sustainability, resourcefulness and environmental care.

## Activity 2: Preparing to Conduct Interviews

**Practise** asking open-ended questions and active listening skills.

**Ask** students to identify a family member, neighbour, or community member who has experience with older gardening techniques.

**Guide** the students in preparing questions to guide the interview. For example:

- What gardening techniques did you use when you were younger?
- How did you manage pests or improve soil health?
- What tools or materials did you rely on?
- How did the seasons and climate influence your gardening practices?

## Activity 3: Conducting a Personal Interview

- **Guide** students to arrange a time to interview their chosen person. **Ensure** students have a pen and notebook to take notes, and in addition they may use a smartphone to record/film the interview.
- **Students conduct the interview**, taking notes.

## Alternative Interview Activity: Conducting a Classroom Interview

If it is not possible for some or all students to find suitable people to interview, the teacher could invite an appropriate person(s) to the classroom, to be interviewed by the whole class or small groups.

## Activity 4: Analysing and Reflection on the Interview

Have the students:

- Summarise the gardening techniques they learned about.
- Compare traditional and modern methods, focusing on sustainability, efficiency and environmental impact.

## Activity 5: Presenting Findings to the Class

Have the students:

- Share their findings with the class through a short presentation, poster or video.
- Include quotes or stories from the person interviewed to bring their experiences to life.

Ensure that all students follow respectful listening and questioning protocols during presentations.

## Extension

Research how traditional gardening techniques are being integrated into sustainable farming practices today.