



SCIENCE Quiz #5



Complete your Young Scientist badge here!

Do you know your plants well? Sometimes, it is even a matter of life and death, as eating the wrong plant can prove fatal. Take on the challenge and identify the plants from the clues provided!

*These plants are all available in Science Centre's Ecogarden.



PLANT 1

Clue:
The underground stem of this flowering plant is used in cooking to add flavour and to colour dishes yellow.



PLANT 2

Clue:
The bulb of this plant can make you cry when you cut it.



PLANT 3

Clue:
Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on this toxic flowering plant.



PLANT 4

Clue:
The buds of the showy, pink flowers of this plant are used to flavour local dishes like laksa.

Answers

PLANT 1 TURMERIC



Tumeric is a perennial plant and a member of the ginger family. The spice is obtained from the underground stem (rhizome). When ground, it is commonly used as a colouring agent in processed foods, sauces, pharmaceuticals and as a textile dye. It is also used to treat abdominal pain and jaundice.

The onion is a herbaceous biennial plant with a very short condensed stem at the base. The bulb is made up of thickened leaf bases. The outer layers are thin, dry and fibrous; while the inner layers are whitish and fleshy. Apart from their common use as a flavoursome cooking ingredient, onions are also used as a thickening agent for curries. Onion skins can also be used as a dye.



PLANT 2 ONION

PLANT 3 TROPICAL MILKWEED



The common name of this plant is the blood flower. It is a host plant for a wide variety of butterflies such as the Monarch or Plain Tiger. Milkweeds are poisonous if ingested, and the milky sap is a skin irritant. However, the caterpillars of such butterflies can withstand the poison – even making it part of themselves, providing them with a great defence against predators.

The torch ginger is also a member of the ginger family. The pink flowers can be used in decorative arrangements, but they are more commonly used as an ingredient in dishes across Southeast Asia. The flower buds are used fresh in a variety of dishes such as Chinese rojak, and the flowering shoot is used as a condiment.



PLANT 4 TORCH GINGER