

Royal Botanic Gardens  
**Kew**



# Island Survivors

## Secrets of the Temperate House

**Welcome to the Kew Youth Explainers scavenger hunt!**

Explore the Islands zone in the Temperate House to solve exciting and challenging puzzles and learn about rare and endangered plants. Reveal the secrets of how Kew works to conserve and protect plants around the world!

The Kew Youth Explainers are a group of young people, aged 14 to 17, who volunteer at Kew. We are the brains behind the games! We are on a mission to educate the public about the importance of conserving and protecting plants.

**This scavenger hunt was developed by Kew Youth Explainers:  
Lamisa, Mehvish, Alfred, Florence and Nenad.**

The Islands zone in the Temperate House represents plants from small islands around the world. Island plants face many threats – small numbers can be easily wiped out by natural disasters, human impact, invasive plants and animals. Learn about these plants, some of them on the brink of extinction, and their stories by solving our puzzles.

### How to play



• You can find all the answers to the puzzles in the Islands zone on the interpretation boards.



• If you get stuck, check the back page for hints or ask a Youth Explainer for help.



• Read each riddle carefully. There are lots of clues to help you find the right plant.

### Questions

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**1** This plant lost the battle, there is nothing left to see. Despite Kew's best efforts, it succumbed to termites in 2003.

**Answer:** .....

**2** Use these emojis to find this critically endangered plant in the Islands zone:



**Answer:** .....

**3** Kew scientists hacked through thick forests to find a lost memory. A human ladder was created to get cuttings. Today's leafy friends are all clones of their last two surviving ancestors.

**Answer:** .....

**4** Overgrazed by goats, driven to the cliff's edge. Extinction was near, but scientists at Kew's Millennium Seed Bank are coming to the rescue!

**Answer:** .....

**5** Cut down by colonisers for its strength and usefulness. They used this island as a stopping point on their route to the East. Today's survivors are the descendants of the weakest trees, short with curved trunks.

**Answer:** .....

**6** Use these emojis to find this critically endangered plant in the Islands zone:



**Answer:** .....

## Final puzzle

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Now that you have explored the Islands zone and learned about amazing plants from around the world, can you solve our final puzzle to discover the theme of our scavenger hunt?

Island plants face a lot more threats than many of their mainland relatives. Many are endangered, and some have even been lost forever. Due to human impact, invasive species and reducing populations, many island plants are facing...

**Answer:** .....



**Once you've answered all the questions, find a Youth Explainer to check your answers.**

**We hope you enjoyed our scavenger hunt. If you want to learn more, pick up one of the other Youth Explainers scavenger hunts to explore a new zone in the Temperate House!**

# Hints

**1** Use these emojis to figure out this plant's name:



**2** This plant's greatest threat is feral goats!

Look for these symbols:



**3** A single surviving specimen was found in Mauritius in 1976.

Look for these symbols:



**4** Desperate times call for desperate measures. Kew scientists are working to bring this plant back from the brink. Propagation is key!

Look for these symbols:



**5** Its strong, red wood was an attractive building material for boats and houses.

Look for these symbols:



**6** Only 12 plants exist in the wild!

Look for these symbols:



**Final puzzle:**



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