



# Welcome to the Great Glasshouse Survival Trail

Here're a few tips for surviving in the wild in California & Australia.  
First, follow the arrows to number 1 on the map.  
To find the plant, look for a green label.



**IF YOU WERE LOST IN THE CALIFORNIAN CHAPPERAL, YOU'D HAVE TO HUNT TO SURVIVE.**



White Sage

Before you set out hunting you have to prepare yourself like the native hunters did. When stalking animals you have to blend into the background - this means the way you smell. Look out for the **white sage** (*Salvia apiana*) (1). By crushing the leaves of this shrub and rubbed the scent onto yourself, black-tailed deer, hares & jackrabbits won't smell you downwind.

Many Californian native tribes, like the **Chumash** whose rock art is nearby, also used the seeds of **white sage** to clean out their dusty eyes after hunting. This is dangerous as it requires the hunter to put the seed underneath their eyelids before sleeping. During the night the seeds swell & become soft, collecting up the dust. The hunter then takes them out in the morning.



Chumash rock



Sagebush

The skunk is a small mammal with a smell so strong it can turn away predators - like you. The smoke of **sagebush** (*Artemisia californica*) (2) is one of the few things that can remove skunk odour from your skin. *Top hunting tip*: one of its long branches can be made into an arrow.

When you're crouching down, stalking an animal, you can get stung by an insect such as a bee. Look out for the pretty flower called the **columbine** (*Aquilegia formosa*) (3). Native hunters used to soothe the sting by chewing the leaves and pressing them onto the stung area.



Columbine

### BE CAREFUL!

Some leaves or branches have sharp tips or edges.

Some plants defend themselves with poisons, stings and irritants – so please don't eat anything.

If you rub any leaves, avoid putting your fingers in your mouth, nostril or eyes until you have washed your hands.



After a good day's hunting in the scrub you might have aching limbs. Hunters would bring back some roots of the **columbine**. They mashed up the roots and rubbed them briskly onto their aching joints.

**FOLLOW THE ARROWS ON THE MAP TO GET TO POINT 4. NOW IMAGINE YOU'RE LOST IN THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH.**

Australia's aboriginal people have lived off the land for over 25,000 years. In the southwest of Australia live the Noongar people. Before the arrival of European settlers, they were on the move throughout the year. Noongar hunted and trapped game such as kangaroos, wallabies and possums, and fished using spears and traps. They learnt to use a huge range of plants in many different ways. You will learn from them.



Wattle

Before you set out, hunters need a good meal. Look for a (5) wattle tree (*Acacia spp.*) with seed pods. Prepared carefully these seeds will give you more energy than food based on rice or wheat.

While the wattle seeds cook hunters choose their spear. For catching fish they use the flower spike of the (4) **grass tree** (*Xanthorrhoea spp.*). For hunting wallabies, they make a boomerang and spear out of the **wattle** wood because it is strong and does not split easily. The resin inside the **grass tree** acts as a glue and can also be used to patch up a leaky water-container.



Grass Tree flower



Witchetty grub



While out in the bush look out for more **wattle**. If you've ever watched 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here' you might have seen people being made to eat fat witchetty grubs. These moth & beetle larvae normally live in wattle roots and provide a high energy snack.

As you move around, **KEEP ON THE LOOKOUT** for **Noongar rock art**. Do you think they drew the animals they hunted?



Wattle

Getting thirsty? Hunters put some **wattle** flowers in their water to make a refreshing drink.



Lost in the bush? **Grass tree** flowers can be used as a compass. Those on the sunnier side open before those on the cooler side. Remember that the sun is in the north in Australia!



Grass Tree



Night is falling. Time to make more use of the **wattles**. They have the best wood for fires - it burns slowly at high temperatures and without much smoke. You fall asleep.

Now it's Dreamtime.

We hope you've enjoyed this Survival Trail.  
Look out for other survival tips on the plant labels in the Great Glasshouse.