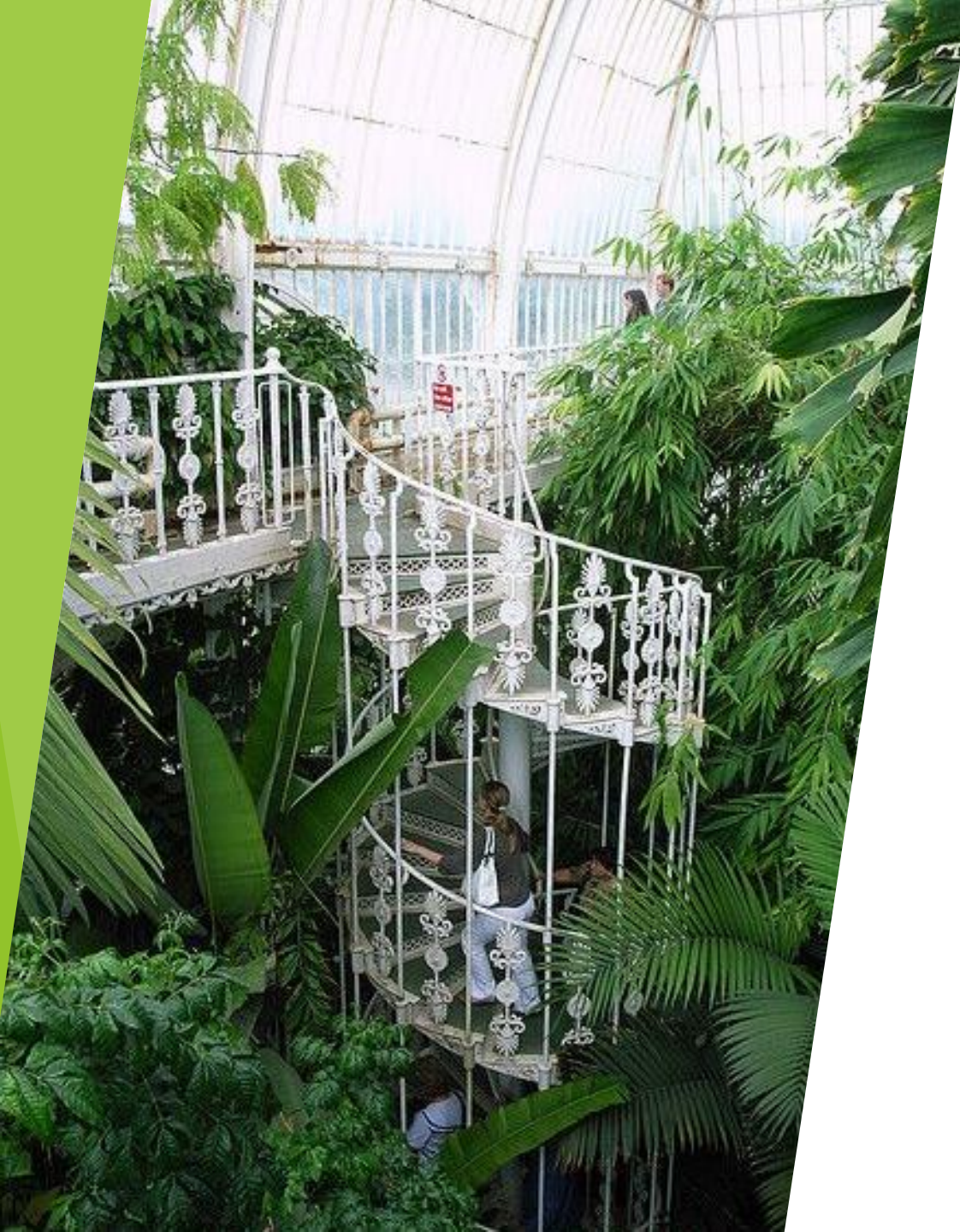


The Palm House

at Kew Gardens





The Palm House at Kew
Gardens houses an
amazing collection of
plants.
Find out about some of
them [here](#).



What do you
think this is?

It's coffee!
These are
coffee beans
growing.

Rubber

Rubber tree grows in the tropics and subtropics, especially in [Southeast Asia](#) and [western Africa](#). It replaced the [rubber plant](#) in the early 20th century as the chief source of natural [rubber](#). It has soft wood; high, branching limbs; and a large area of [bark](#). The milky liquid ([latex](#)) that oozes from any wound to the tree bark contains about 30 percent rubber, which can be coagulated and processed into solid products, such as tyres. Latex can also be concentrated for producing dipped goods, such as surgical gloves.





Mangoes

Mangoes are delicious and nutritious, offering many health benefits!

Cacao



You should know all about what this plant is used for - from your work in Year 4!

Papaya



Used widely as
a food itself
and as an
ingredient in
various food
products.



Jackfruit

(this is actually a painting by Marianne North - showing jack fruit in Singapore.

In many cultures, **jackfruit** is boiled and **used** in curries as a staple food. The boiled young **jackfruit** is **used** in salads or as a vegetable in spicy curries and side dishes, and as fillings for cutlets and chops. It may be **used** by vegetarians as a substitute for meat

Starfruit



This is another of Marianne North's pieces of beautiful art.

Starfruit are also known as carambolas. Ripe carambolas can be enjoyed as fresh fruit; they have quite an unusual flavour. They may also be used in cooking. In Southeast Asia, they are usually stewed in [cloves](#) and sugar, sometimes with [apples](#). In China, they are cooked with fish. In Australia, they may be cooked as a vegetable, pickled, or made into jams. In [Jamaica](#) they are sometimes dried.



African oil palm

- ▶ As its name indicates, this oil palm's original habitat is in West Africa's tropical forests.
- ▶ The African oil palm traditionally supplied the rural populations in West Africa with vegetable fat and oil, palm wine and some regionally important non-wood forest products. During the sixteenth century it found its way to Brazil, but was only introduced, as an ornamental plant, to Southeast Asia in the nineteenth century.
- ▶ During the twentieth century oil palm became an important plantation crop, providing palm oil and palm kernel oil.
- ▶ Palm oil is used in a huge range of products, as we have discussed before. Palm oil can be produced ethically - without harming the environment, but as we know, large areas of rainforest have been cleared to make way for palm plantations - which has had and continues to have, dreadful effects on the environment.

Madagascar Periwinkle



This plant has healing powers and is used in the treatment of a number of different types of cancer.

Ancient cycads



Look at these prehistoric plants. Resembling palms, cycads were widespread over 250 million years ago, before dinosaurs and well before the appearance of flowering plants. That's pretty amazing!

An unexpected discovery - Café Marron

► The people at Kew Gardens do a lot of work to help the conservation of plants throughout the world. This plant shows one example. Native to Rodrigues, a remote island in the middle of the Indian Ocean, it was thought that this plant had been extinct for much of the 20th century - but in 1979, a 12-year-old-boy insisted a drawing he saw at school matched a plant growing near his house on the island. Samples were sent to Kew, and we confirmed that this young schoolboy had rediscovered the long-lost café marron!



Nutmeg



This is another Marianne North painting - of a nutmeg plant which she saw on her travels. Nutmeg plants can be seen growing in the Palm House, as they require a tropical climate to thrive.

Bananas



You should know
a lot about
bananas, after
all our work
during our Fair
Trade topic!

Your task:

How important are plants?

Have a think about things that you use or consume.

Where does each one come from? Think carefully, and do some research. You'll be amazed to find exactly how many things come from plants. Don't just think of the obvious thing - think back to where it comes from.

Your task is to select three things that you might use, and find out what each one is made from, and where all those things come from. How does it change from it started out as to what it ends up in the product that you have selected? Work out how much of each thing actually is dependent on plants.

Present your work in whatever way you like!