

Name _____



Surrounded by Plants

Part 1. Survey Personal Plant Exposure

Survey your home and neighborhood to determine the plant products you are exposed to every day. Complete the lists for the categories of plant products in Figure 1.

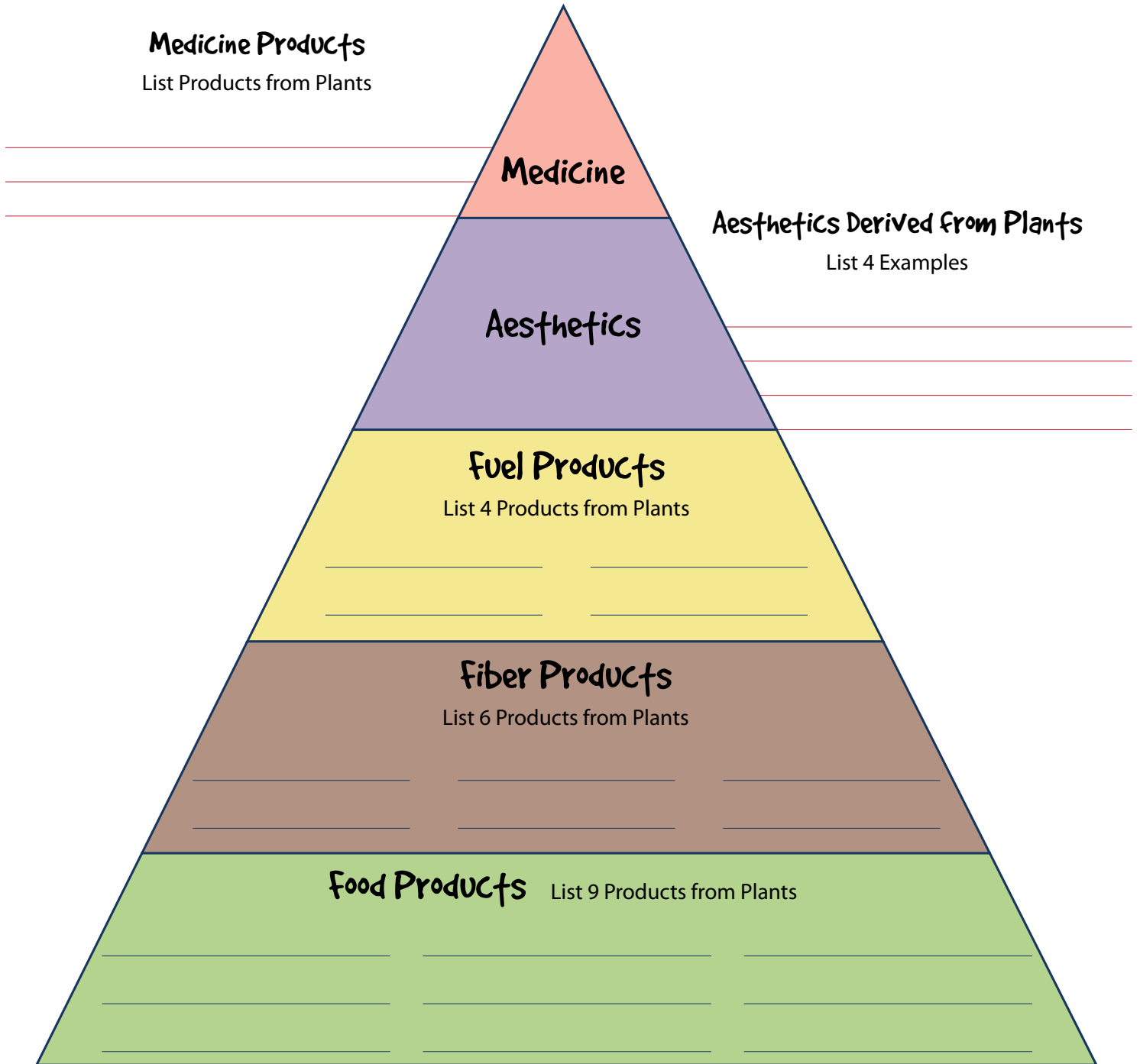


Figure 1. Crop Commodity Triangle

Part 2. Identify Crop Regions

1. Use the USDA Census website to locate the growing regions for ONE CROP from EACH CATEGORY listed in Figure 1.
2. Print off the map of the United States from the 50states.com website at <http://www.50states.com/maps/print/usamap.htm> and use it as the template.
3. Shade in the growing region of each crop using a specific color of pencil to indicate each crop. Include a key on the map to identify which color represents each crop.

For crop growing region, view the USDA 2007 Agriculture Census data:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/2007mapgallery/album/Crops_and_Plants/Field_Crops_Harvested/index.html

For information related to forestry products, use the following URL:

http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/misc_reston.pdf

Part 3. Identify Growing Conditions

Once your map of crop growing regions is complete, use the following websites to investigate what environmental influences, such as temperature and rainfall, affect plant production.

For plant hardiness zones, view the following website:

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>

For rainfall data related to crop regions, see the NRCS website:

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/climate/prism.html>

Conclusion

1. What environmental factors have the greatest effect on determining regions for crop production?

2. What are the predominant crops grown in your state?

3. Explain how growing conditions in your state compare to other regions of the United States.

4. Why do you suspect a large number of cattle and hogs are raised in the Midwest United States?

5. List two plant products that you feel do not fit into any of the categories identified on the pyramid.
