

Soap Making

Yucca Leaf Soap Making

3rd-5th

See Resource File 1-History of Soap Making for information on how indigenous peoples of the Southwestern borderlands used the yucca for soap making.

See Resource File 4-Related Images for pictures of the Soaptree Yucca plant.

A video showcasing yucca leaf soap making featuring Instructional Coordinator Alexandra McKinney can be found on the New Mexico Historic Sites YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqv-WlrZiel&t=1s>

Yucca Leaf Soap Procedure –

1. Cut a few leaves from the Soaptree Yucca plant. Be sure you aren't taking leaves that are on private property. Or, if they are on private property, make sure you have permission from the landowner to cut the leaves.
2. Using a small knife, shave off the green outer skin from the leaves.
3. Collect all those shavings into a small sealable container.
4. Fill the container with warm water and close the lid.
5. Shake the container vigorously. You will begin to see the saponins mix with the water as suds will form. Shake until well mixed.
6. Pour out the mixture into a strainer, separating the leaf shavings from the liquid. Your soap is now ready for use!
7. Use this soap as dishwashing, laundry, or bathing soap.

Materials Needed:

- Soaptree Yucca Leaves (2-3)
- Sealable container
- Small strainer
- Knife
- Warm water