

6.2_F

Original text

Initially, the discovery of drugs and medicinal plants took place largely through trial and error. Across the world, as tribal peoples foraged for food, they soon realized that their local woodland areas harboured a variety of roots, barks, berries and leaves that were not only sources of food but also in some cases could be healing, soothing or even poisonous. For example, the indigenous people of South America discovered the first muscle relaxant: a toxic drug called curare that they smeared onto the tips of their spears to immobilize animals when hunting. Today, a drug which possesses similar characteristics is still used by doctors to relax their patients' muscles during surgery. Another early discovery was cocaine, which originates in South America and which was traditionally used as an appetite suppressant and stimulant. In medicine it was used as a local anaesthetic.

Student A

At first, the discovery of drugs and medicinal plants happened by trial and error. Tribal peoples realized that forests contained trees and plants which could be healing, soothing or poisonous. South Americans discovered the first relaxant – curare – which they put onto their spears to paralyze animals when they hunted. A drug that has the same properties is used by surgeons today to relax patients during medical interventions. A second example is cocaine, which was used to suppress appetite and was later used in medicine as a local anaesthetic.

Student B

Early discoveries of medicines occurred when tribal people found that different plants had various medicinal properties. An early muscle relaxant, curare, originated with the population of South America, where it was used by hunters to immobilize their prey. These days, patients going into surgery are given a drug with similar properties. In medicine, the drug cocaine was used as a local anaesthetic, but its traditional use in South America was to suppress appetite and as a stimulant.

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Suggested answers

Original text	Student B paraphrase	Changes made
Initially, the discovery of drugs and medicinal plants took place largely through trial and error. Across the world, as tribal peoples foraged for food, they soon realized that their local woodland areas harboured a variety of roots, barks, berries and leaves that were not only sources of food but also in some cases could be healing, soothing or even poisonous.	Early discoveries of medicines occurred when tribal people found that different plants had various medicinal properties.	1. short summary omitting many details 2. use of synonyms: <i>took place</i> → <i>occurred</i> <i>realized</i> → <i>found</i> <i>roots, barks, berries and leaves</i> → <i>different plants</i> <i>healing, soothing or even poisonous</i> → <i>medicinal properties</i>
For example, the indigenous people of South America discovered the first muscle relaxant: a toxic drug called curare that they smeared onto the tips of their spears to immobilize animals when hunting.	An early muscle relaxant, curare, originated with the population of South America, where it was used by hunters to immobilize their prey.	1. information reordered to emphasize discovery (not discoverers) 2. change of subject and verb (see point 1) 3. omission of some details 4. use of synonyms: <i>animals when hunting</i> → <i>prey</i>
Today, a drug which possesses similar characteristics is still used by doctors to relax their patients' muscles during surgery.	These days, patients going into surgery are given a drug with similar properties.	1. change of subject, verb and object – reordering information 2. omission of both dependent clauses (one new dependent clause is used) 3. use of synonyms: <i>characteristics</i> → <i>properties</i> <i>today</i> → <i>these days</i>
Another early discovery was cocaine, which originates in South America and which was traditionally used as an appetite suppressant and stimulant. In medicine it was used as a local anaesthetic.	In medicine, the drug cocaine was used as a local anaesthetic, but its traditional use in South America was to suppress appetite and as a stimulant.	1. information reordered 2. word forms changed: <i>traditionally used</i> → <i>traditional use</i> <i>appetite suppressant</i> → <i>suppress appetite</i>