

# Cures OR Conservation

## The future and history of animals in Traditional Medicine

### Post 16

#### Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- ✓ **All students** will understand the natural world, including animals, holds potential medical cures; however, uncontrolled exploitation of the natural world as medicine will lead to extinctions
- ✓ **Most students** will understand the development process of new drugs as being very long and involving many steps, including preclinical and clinical testing
- ✓ **Some students** will recognise the value of considering traditional medicine as a source of information to be scientifically studied rather than dismissed

#### Session Outline:

Human cultures worldwide have historically used animals and their parts as medicine, and students will learn about scientifically proven medicines derived from animal-based chemicals and compounds. The session covers the history of European medicine and the role of animals, transitioning to modern Traditional Medicine. Students will examine real animal artifacts and their Traditional Medical uses. We will then walk through the process of how scientists develop new medicines, including pre-clinical and clinical testing. Throughout, we will address the environmental issues related to endangered animals used in medicine, highlighting specific examples like rhino horn (which is not medicinal) and bear bile (which has medicinal value), and discuss how to balance these needs.

Please note, no live animals are used in this session.



#### Curriculum Links

##### Biology

Endangered species  
Development of new medicines

##### History

European medicine