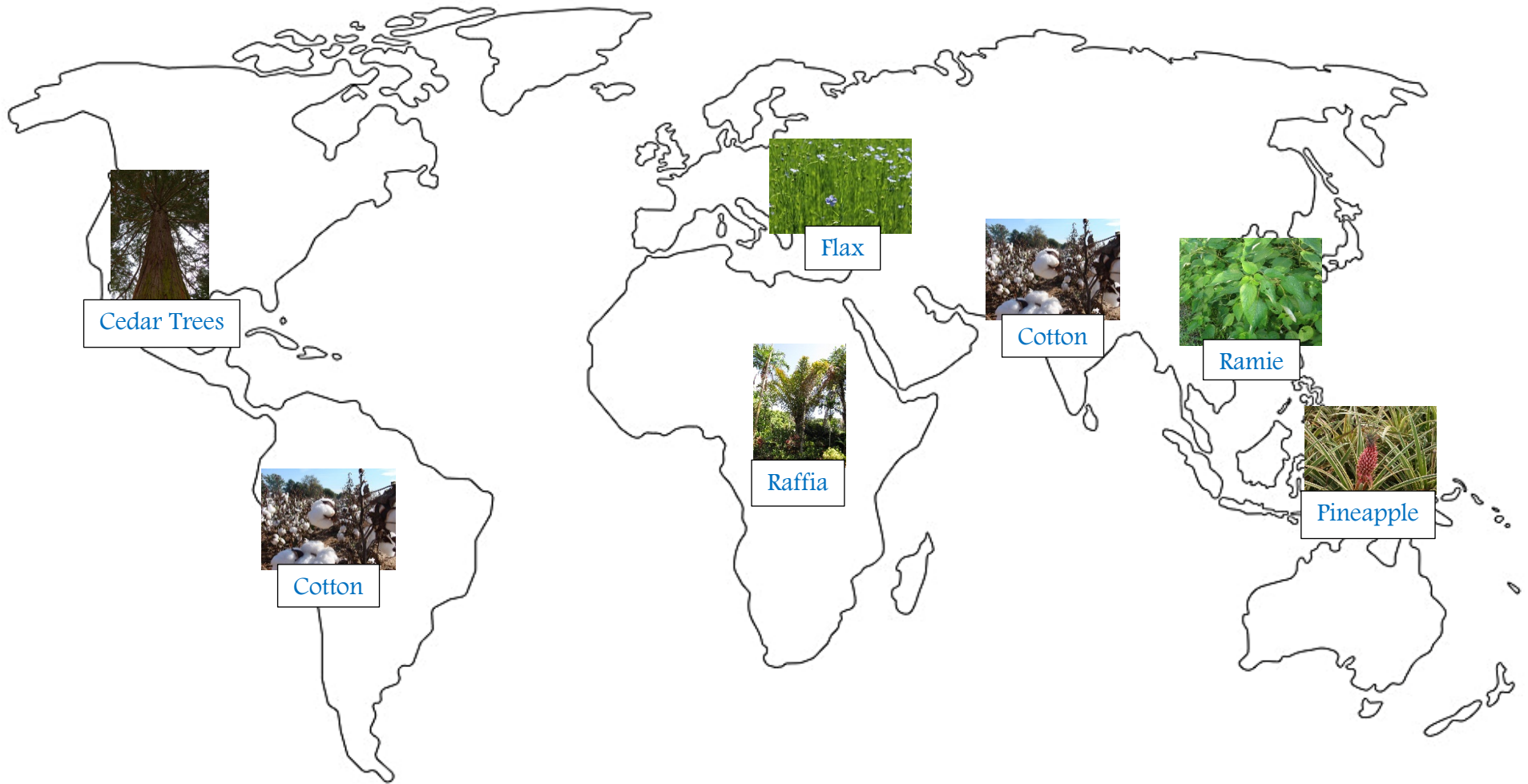




**BILLINGS**  
FARM & MUSEUM

# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FIBER PLANTS



Cedar Trees



Flax



Cotton



Ramie



Raffia



Cotton



Pineapple

# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FIBER PLANTS



**CEDAR TREES** – The inner bark is harvested without hurting the tree. It can be made immediately into baskets or processed over the next few years to become clothes, ropes, and more.

Historically common in Native American tribes of the Pacific Northwest, the tradition of using cedar bark is dying out. Some tribes, particularly the Suquamish, are trying to revive the practice.

Learn more at: <https://nwtreatytribes.org/keeping-the-cedar-bark-gathering-tradition-alive/>



**COTTON** – This plant grows *bolls* which can be cleaned and spun into thread and yarn. It is grown and used all over the world for a variety of things, especially clothing. You are probably wearing some right now!

This fiber plant is unique in that it was domesticated in multiple places independently. There is evidence of its cultivation in India and the Americas.



**RAFFIA PALM** – The leaves from these palm trees are dried and then split into strips. Today the leaves are used mostly in twine, but traditionally they were woven and sewn into beautiful clothes by many African cultures.

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**FLAX** – This is where linen comes from! The long stems are processed to make an extremely soft cloth that is enjoyed across the globe. Originally from the Middle East, the majority of linen is now made in Europe, with China and the United States also beginning to produce it.



**RAMIE** – The interiors of this tall plant are used to make soft, strong fabric. Ramie was originally cultivated in China, which continues to be its major source today.



**PINEAPPLE** – The Red Spanish Pineapple has long leaves that can be scrapped down to fibers that make a silky, lightweight fabric known as piña cloth. This cloth was a very popular export from Singapore to Europe during Spanish colonial rule in the 1600-1800s. The craft has almost died out and is just starting to be brought back.