ACADÉMIE DE NANTES
Liberté
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BACCALAUREAT GENERAL ET TECHNOLOGIQUE

EPREUVE SPECIFIQUE MENTION

« SECTION EUROPEENNE OU DE LANGUE ORIENTALE »

Académie de Nantes, binôme : Anglais/SVT

Thème 2 – Enjeux planétaires contemporains

2 – A - De la plante sauvage à la plante domestiquée

Palm tree: a dollar-tree.

Great! You are a 25 year-old French student and you have been offered the opportunity to do a PhD at the MIT. Use your knowledge and the help of the documents to explain where the ink for the US currency comes from and how it has been produced.

Document 1 : U.S. Federal Reserve notes in the mid-1990s

Document 2:

The new bills circulated by the U.S. government starting in the 1860s came to be known as greenbacks because their back sides were printed in green ink. This ink was an anti-counterfeiting measure used to prevent photographic knockoffs, since the cameras of the time could only take pictures in black and white. […] The small-sized bills continued to be printed with green ink because, according to the U.S. Bureau of Printing and Engraving, the ink was plentiful and durable and the color green was associated with stability.

Source: https://edepot.wur.nl/315469

Document 3:

The US Treasury has asked peasants in Nayarit - a state on the Pacific coast in Mexico - to produce more *Camedor* palm, a variety of dwarf palm that grows in the shade of tall trees in the rainforest.

Its foliage is generally used for funeral wreaths, but the variety that is grown in San Blas is unique in the world. Its sap, combined with other secret chemicals, serves as a pigment for the green so characteristic of dollars.

The US Treasury wants to gradually replace all banknotes in circulation. So Mexican farmers are rubbing their hands together. This year, they could cultivate nearly 16,000 hectares to export 600 tons of camedor palm, which should earn them four million dollars, paid of course in greenbacks!

Source: http://www1.rfi.fr/actufr/articles/107/article_74720.asp