



# True or False. Did it come from a tree?

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Science and Social Studies

## LEARNER OBJECTIVES

- Identify products made from trees.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

List of tree products, paper and pencils, magazines, mobile-making materials (tag board, glue, string, and small wooden rods).

## PREPARATION TIME

15 minutes

## ACTIVITY TIME

45-60 minutes

## Background

Many people realize that trees are used to make paper, furniture, and construction materials. It may be surprising to find out that other parts of the tree are used to make many other items as well. For instance, cork, dye, tannin (used for curing leather), and many drugs and oils are made from the bark of trees. Sap from trees is an ingredient in cosmetics, paint thinner, perfumes, soap, and other common, everyday items.

All plants contain a compound called cellulose, which provides them with rigidity and support. In fact, it's the number one component in wood. People use cellulose from wood to make a variety of products besides paper. For example, cellulose can be mixed with certain chemicals and squeezed into fibers that are used to make carpets, wigs, and fabrics such as rayon for clothes and furniture. Cellulose is also used as a key ingredient in cellophane, sausage casings, explosives, shatterproof glass, sponges, shampoo thickeners, imitation leather and numerous other products. Processed with certain chemicals, cellulose may also be used to make molded plastics for eyeglass frames, hairbrush handles, steering wheels and more.

## The Activity

1. Tell the students that they are going to take a True/False Quiz. Have them number their papers 1-20.
2. Tell the students that you are going to recite 20 items. If the student thinks the item is made from trees, write "true." If the student thinks the item is not made from trees, write "false." Use the following list: paper, furniture, carpets, wigs, sausage casings, shatterproof glass, sponges, imitation leather, eyeglass frames, hairbrush handles, cork, cosmetics, paint thinner, perfumes, soap, syrup, chewing gum, printing ink, shoe polish, and crayons.
3. Once the quiz is complete, tell the students that all items were "true." Explain how some of these items are made from the bark, the sap, or the cellulose from trees.
4. Have the students cut out pictures of these surprising products made from trees from magazines. Create a mobile with the heading "Made from Trees."