

What does wood mean to you?

Trees are important for so many reasons. Trees provide habitats for wildlife, they produce food, they keep us sheltered and cool, they produce oxygen, and they create green places for us to play, explore and learn in. Trees also provide us with wood. When wood is prepared for carpentry or building we call it 'timber'.

Activity 1: What is wood?

You will need:

A pen



Look at the pictures. In your own words, describe where wood comes from and what we might use timber for?

Activity 2: What wood is around us?

Some things look like wood and we know they are made from wood. Some things are less obviously made from wood. This activity will challenge you to find all the different things in our everyday lives that are made out of wood.

What you will need:

A piece of paper or page in an exercise book

A pencil

A ruler

A pen

- a) On a blank piece of paper draw an outline of your classroom.
- b) Find all the things that are made out of wood in your classroom.
- c) Draw them in your classroom, outline and label or annotate them.
- d) Draw a class picture on the whiteboard and make sure everyone shares what they found in the classroom.

Activity 3: Follow the Wood Trail!

You will be surprised by how many things are made from wood.
Discover them on the Wood Trail!

You will need:

Clothes and shoes for going outdoors

A clipboard

A pen

a) Eight objects are hidden along a path or in an area
(your teacher will tell you).

b) Walk along the trail and see if you can find the objects.

c) When you find an object write down what it is, then explain how
it is made from trees and wood:

Object

How is it made from wood or trees?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

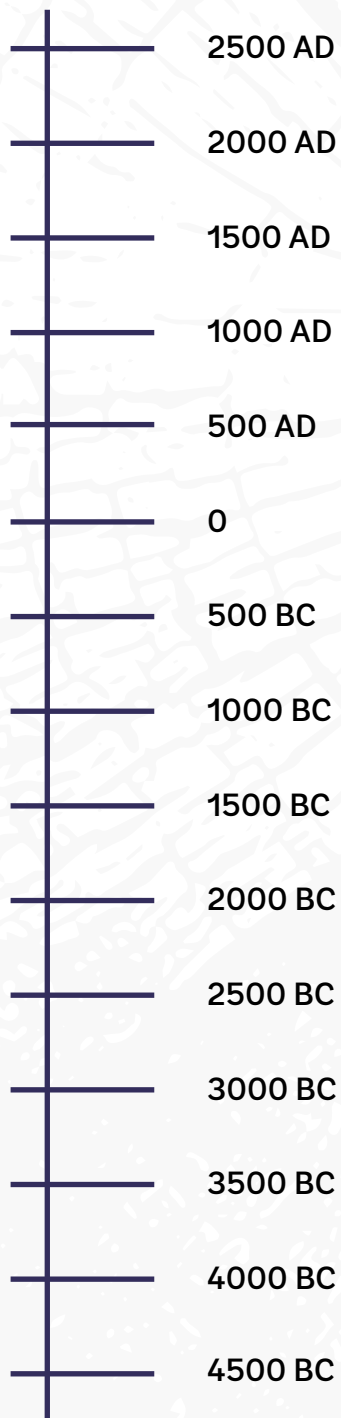
8. _____

Activity 4: How did we use wood in the past?

For thousands of years people have used trees and wood for nearly all of their needs. Only recently, in the last 100 years, have we used metals and plastic to replace wood. Find out how people in the past used wood:

a) The timeline below shows 6,000 years of time. Every 500 years is marked on it.

b) Write which date you think matches the descriptions of wood use in the table below.



Write the date you think matches the description on the timeline:	How wood was used in the past:
	Stone Age: Wood from trees used for fire and shelter.
	Stone Age: Hazel, alder and willow coppiced using sharp tools like flint axes.
	Stonehenge built. Stones rolled on logs from trees.
	Bronze Age: Metal is made by making fires with wood to create high temperatures.
	Bronze Age: People live in round houses built from wood and natural materials.
	Iron Age: Wood is used to heat furnaces to make metals such as iron.
	Estimated birth of Jesus
	Middle Ages
	Normans: William the Conqueror built castles using wood.
	Henry VIII builds a Navy from wood. Boats made from wood help Elizabeth I defeat the Spanish Armada.
	Wooden boats help win the Battle of Trafalgar. Queen Victoria uses wooden boats to explore the world and build the British Empire. The industrial revolution relies on many fuels including wood to power machines and factories.
	World War I: Wood is used as pit props in the coal mines, and to shore up the fighting trenches.
	Plastics produced and used in place of wooden items.
	Wood is still our most sustainable material as it can be grown, recycled, used to capture carbon and brings many benefits to both the environment and people.