

Activity 9 - Around the House

Many products used in and around our homes began as a tree. Some are obvious like a wooden table, paper (did you know it used to be made from cotton and linen rags?), or construction materials used to build the house itself. Others, such as spices like cinnamon and medicines like aspirin, are not so obvious.

Other products that were once made from wood may now be made from other materials. These items include water pipes, wheel chairs, piano keys, and spruce gum – it was used to make chewing gum! Can you imagine chewing a spruce tree?

This activity will give you a chance to be a wood detective.

Search in and around your house for items made from wood. You will have to think beyond the obvious and do some research to get as many items as possible. Remember, not all products started out as the wood from a tree, some use the sap (maple syrup and rubber), bark (medicine and cosmetics), leaves (wax), and other parts of the tree (paint). Even some of the kitchen dishes began as wood flour and melamine resins!

Make a list of all the wood and wood-related items you find. Classify them under the part of the tree where they originated. Get your family involved in the search. You will be surprised.

Here are some hints to help get you started.

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|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Cough medicine | <input type="radio"/> Toys | <input type="radio"/> Sporting goods |
| <input type="radio"/> Nuts | <input type="radio"/> Suntan lotion | <input type="radio"/> Birdhouses |
| <input type="radio"/> Fruit | <input type="radio"/> Baskets | <input type="radio"/> Post-it notes |
| <input type="radio"/> Textiles | <input type="radio"/> Tools | <input type="radio"/> Disposable
diapers |
| <input type="radio"/> Coasters | <input type="radio"/> Clothing | |
| <input type="radio"/> Adhesives | <input type="radio"/> Vanilla flavoring
(artificial) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Musical
instruments | <input type="radio"/> Vitamins | |
| <input type="radio"/> Newspapers and
magazines | <input type="radio"/> Polishes | |