

Nature's Treasure Chest



Name _____

Read the story below then circle the items in it that you think are made from a tree. When you finish, check your answers with the key that starts on the next page.

"Hurry, Randy, or you'll be late for school," Mrs. Carter called out from the kitchen.

Randy's hand slid over the smooth handrail as he raced down the stairs. He skipped the last three steps and landed with a thud.

"Coming, Mom," he mumbled through the thick sweatshirt that he put on over his new rayon shirt. He walked down the corridor, his shoelaces tapping on the shiny wood floor.



"What's for breakfast? I'm starved," he said. Randy slid across the bench to his place next to his father's chair at the head of the table. The smell of vanilla coming from the stack of steaming pancakes made his mouth water. The aroma of the spicy sausage on his plate made his stomach grumble. "Pass me the maple syrup, please." Randy reached for the carton of icy cold milk.



"And good morning to you, too," Mr. Carter said, folding the newspaper and setting it down beside him. "Did you finish that report you were working on last night? I've got two tickets to the basketball game this evening and lots of film in the camera. I'd hate to go by myself."

"No problem, Dad. It's done." Randy drank the last drop of milk then wiped his mouth with his napkin and slid off the bench. "See you tonight."



Mrs. Carter opened the cabinet door and pulled out a box of apple juice and a box of chocolate chip cookies. She added them to the cellophane wrapped sandwich and orange already in the brown lunch sack.



"Brush your teeth before

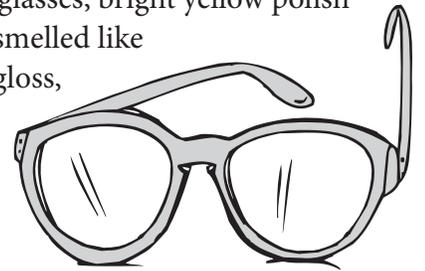
you leave, Randy," she said.

"No time. Besides, I can't find my toothbrush, and I'm out of toothpaste," Randy answered. He picked up his books and pencils, his football helmet, and his lunch sack then headed for the front door. "Bye, Mom."



As Randy closed the door, he saw the school bus round the corner, its shiny, black tires gleaming in the morning sun. He hopped over his mom's planter boxes and ran across the lawn. Down the street he raced—past four houses, three picket fences, two signs, and a telephone pole. He reached the corner just as the bus came to a halt in front of the bus-stop bench. All of his friends were already lined up to get on.

Beth Parker, the funniest girl in his class, was the last in line. Beth wore lavender glasses, bright yellow polish on her nails, and always smelled like hairspray, strawberry lipgloss, and peppermint candy. She turned around and smiled at Randy.



"You were lucky today," Beth said.

"That wasn't luck. That was perfect timing."

"Well, someday you're not going to make it to the bus in time," she said.

"Never," he answered, as he stuck a piece of gum in his mouth. Randy climbed the steps, then walked along the black rubber matting to the wide seat at the back of the bus.

The doors closed with a hiss as the bus rumbled down Hudson Street.

~ The End ~

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Mrs. Carter opened the **cabinet door** and pulled out a **box** of **apple** juice and a **box** of chocolate chip **cookies**. She added them to the **cellophane** wrapped sandwich and **orange** already in the brown **lunch sack**.



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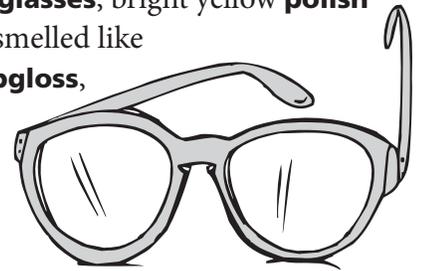
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As Randy closed the **door**, he saw the school bus round the corner, its shiny, black **tires** gleaming in the morning sun. He hopped over his mom's **planter boxes** and ran across the lawn. Down the street he raced—past four **houses**, three **picket fences**, two **signs**, and a **telephone pole**. He reached the corner just as the bus came to a halt in front of the **bus-stop bench**. All of his friends were already lined up to get on.

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Nature's Treasure Chest

Many people know that furniture, lumber for building houses, paper, and books are wood products. But did you know that over 5,000 different products come from trees? Some of them are pretty surprising. Through the magic of modern science, man has learned how to take the fiber from trees and create wonderful items that make our everyday lives better and more enjoyable. How do they do it?

A tree is like any other plant, only bigger. It is built of plant **CELLS** made of **CELLULOSE** that are held together by **LIGNIN**. The lignin acts as a type of glue holding all the cells together in bundles of fibers. If the wood is cut into chips and then cooked into **PULP**, the lignin dissolves. The cellulose can now be separated out and cooked again. Soon it is a stew of fibers and a liquid called **CELLULOSE ACETATE**.

Some wood products come directly from the tree. Some come from the cellulose pulp, the lignin, or the cellulose acetate. Many medicines, clothing, foods, cosmetics, paints, even some “plastics” are wood products. So the next time you use a bowling ball, put on your new rayon dress, rinse with mouthwash, eat a cookie, or play your drums—**THANK A TREE**—and thank California’s foresters who keep our forests healthy and growing for all of us to enjoy.

Below are the items made from trees that were included in the story you read about Randy. How many of them did you find? If you got them all, you are...

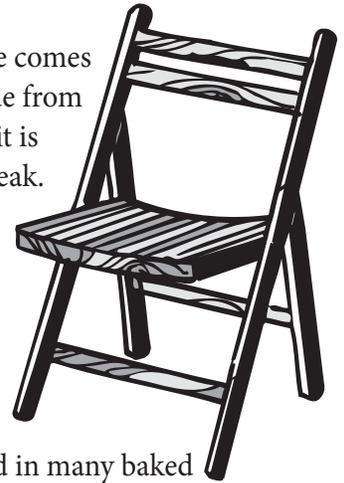
TREE-RRRR-FIC!

HANDRAIL, STAIRS, STEPS, FLOOR, DOOR, CUPBOARDS:

Many homes have stair parts and floors made of oak, pine, or fir because these woods are sturdy and attractive. Do you have a staircase in your home? What kind of wood was used to make it? Sometimes maple is used for a highly polished wood floor. Doors are most often made of pine and fir, but sometimes they are made of oak or even redwood. Many kitchen cabinets are made of pine or oak. Some are made of cherry. Make a tour of your house. Do you have a wood floor, or does carpet cover it? What kind of front door do you have? Are your cupboards wood? Are they painted or are they natural colored?

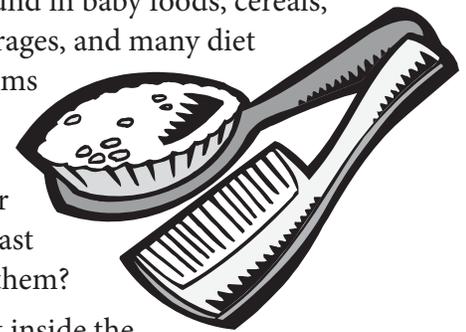
RAYON: This fabric is very popular because it is light and comfortable and can be made into clothes used for fancy occasions or clothes made for fun. Rayon is produced from cellulose acetate. Check the closets and drawers in your house. How many things do you and your family use that are made from rayon?

BENCH, CHAIR, TABLE: Furniture comes in all shapes and sizes and is made from many different materials. Today, it is often made from pine, oak, and teak. Makers of fine wood furniture like using walnut, cherry, and mahogany. These woods do not splinter easily and look beautiful when they are sanded smooth and polished.



VANILLA: Artificial vanilla is used in many baked goods that are found in the stores or are baked at home and is sometimes called vanillin. It is made from lignin. Lignin is used in some baby foods, pet foods, and deodorants to help hold the ingredients of these products together. Some medicines that help with high blood pressure and Parkinson’s disease also come from lignin.

PANCAKES, COOKIES: Baked goods sometimes contain an ingredient called torula yeast. It comes from the wood sugars that are produced when pulp is made. Torula contains lots of protein. It has five times more iron in it than Popeye’s spinach or good old California raisins. Torula yeast is also found in baby foods, cereals, imitation bacon, beverages, and many diet foods. Torula even seems to make bees and lobsters grow faster! What products in your kitchen have torula yeast or artificial vanilla in them?



SAUSAGES: No, meat inside the sausage is not made from wood! But the casings that hold the meat in links usually are cellulose, a wood product. Cellulose is tasteless and comes in several varieties. Sausage casings are made from ethyl cellulose. So are hard hats, combs, brushes, luggage, and fishing floats.

CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE