

Name: _____

Date: _____

PLANT PRODUCTS

The most important roles plants play in our lives are food and oxygen, but that is not their only role. Our clothes are often made from plants, such as cotton. Forests provide us with wood and the trees are used to make paper. Plant oils from seeds are used to produce many products including soap and paint.

WOOD

Wood is one of the most used natural resources we have. Wood, which comes from trees, is used to make everything from the houses we live in, to the toothpicks we used after eating our corn on the cob. However, the diversity of this resource is causing many forests to be cut down, which is contributing to global warming.



COTTON

Cotton is one of the most useful plants on Earth. There are fine hairs inside the fluff-filled pods that grow on cotton plants. This is the way the plant releases its seeds into the wind, but when they are spun together, the strong fibres make a thread that can be woven or dyed to produce all kinds of cloth. Shirts and jeans contain cotton.

LATEX

Did you know that tires come from trees? Tires are made from rubber, and rubber is made from latex. Latex is a milky white liquid that oozes from a tree when it is injured. Latex is not sap, as some people believe. Scientists think it is how the tree protects itself after it has been damaged. Chewing gum is another product that comes from a type of latex.



1. What are the two most important roles that plants play in our life?

2. Name as many things as you can think of that are made from wood.

3. Name as many things as you can think of that a tree gives us to make things.

4. What can be made from cotton?

5. Can you think of any other plant products that do not come from trees, cotton or rubber?
