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Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



WOOD IS GOOD... FOR A LOT OF THINGS

CALEB COLLEY

In an average day, wood helps us a lot. When you get out of your bed—perhaps a wooden bed—in the morning, you may put your feet on a wooden floor. You walk from room to room, all of which are probably divided and outlined by wood (the wood may be hidden by sheet rock, but the wood is there). You open the pantry door, which is made of wood, to get your cereal. When you sit down to breakfast, you probably sit on a wooden chair and eat from a wooden table. In fact, there probably are thousands of feet of wood in your house.

In school, you might sit at a wooden desk, use a wooden pencil, and write on paper, which is made of extremely thin slices of wood fiber. Your books are wood products, too. If one of your classmates has a broken leg, he is probably using crutches made of...you guessed it—wood! Some people eat from paper plates at lunch, and this means wood is being used at yet another meal. At recess, you might play baseball, and many baseball bats are made of wood.

As you drive down the road, you pass by lots of telephone poles (wood again). If it's a chilly evening, you can sit by a warm, log fire (wood is definitely there). After the fire is burned out, you can use the ashes from the logs to help fruits and vegetables grow in the garden, melt ice, keep algae from growing in your pond, make soap, shine silver, and more (the ashes might have to be mixed with something else first). Even after wood is burned, it is valuable.

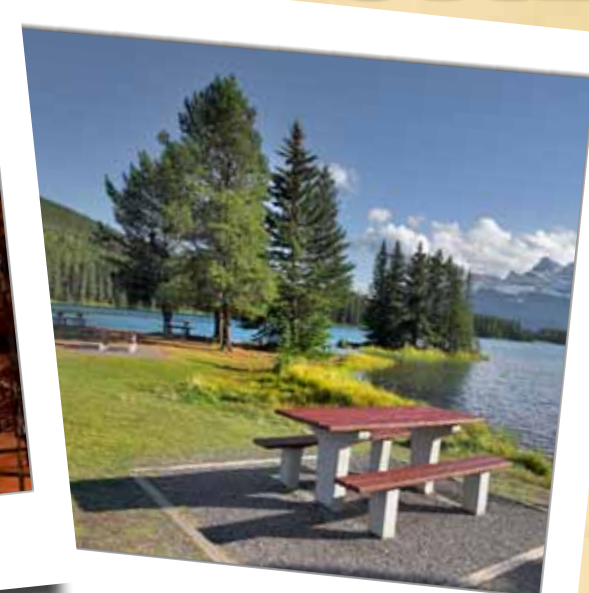
When God gave us wood, He provided a wonderful, useful tool to help us survive and make us comfortable. You can read about many more uses for wood in the pages of God's Word (see Genesis 6:14; 22:9; Exodus 25; Leviticus 3:5).



LET There Be TREES



ERIC LYONS



According to the theory of evolution, plants first evolved on land around 465 million years ago. Certain trees, then, supposedly came along 80 million years later (around 385 million years ago). Trees with roots, seeds, and leaves are said to have evolved nearly 100 million years after the first land plants. Supposedly, there were fish in the seas and various insects on the land, but according to evolution, seed-producing, fruit-bearing trees bloomed millions of years later.

What does the Bible teach about the origin of the various kinds of vegetation? On day three of Creation, the omnipotent God Who created everything with “the breath of His mouth” (Psalm 33:6) said: “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth” (Genesis 1:11). The Bible then reveals, “and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself ac-

ording to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:11-13).

It is really very simple to understand. God made grass, herb, and tree, seed, spore, and fruit on the same day of Creation. He made the apple, the apple tree, and the apple seed all on day three. There were no processes that turned dirt into plants, plants into shrubs, and shrubs into trees over many millions of years. God **said** He did it in one day, “and it was so.” Furthermore, He did it **prior** to His creation of any animal life. Although evolution says that fish and insects were around before fruit bearing trees, the Bible teaches otherwise (Genesis 1:20-25).

Plants and trees are vital to our survival. They provide many of the foods we eat, a lot of the oxygen we breathe, many of the ingredients for medicines, and countless amounts of materials (like wood) that we use for all sorts of things. How great is our God for creating such amazing things as plants and trees!

PLASTIC?

Dave Miller

Evolutionists think they can explain the marvels of nature without God. The truth is that the natural world “declares the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). Before plastic was invented, people had to make their bowls and containers out of wood, stone, or clay, and eventually metal. Some groups have said that we should use plastic cutting boards, since the tiny pores and knife cuts in wood provide hiding places for deadly bacteria.

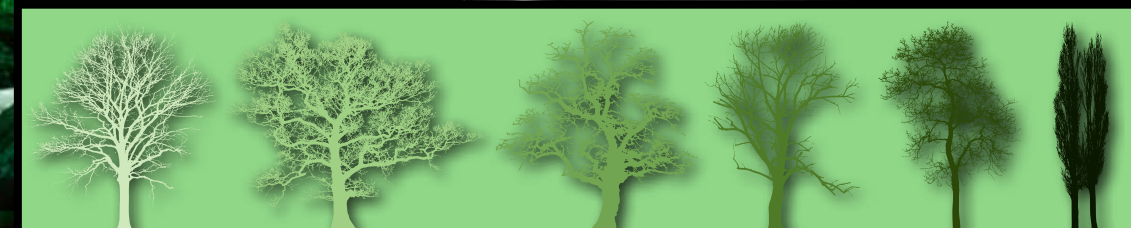
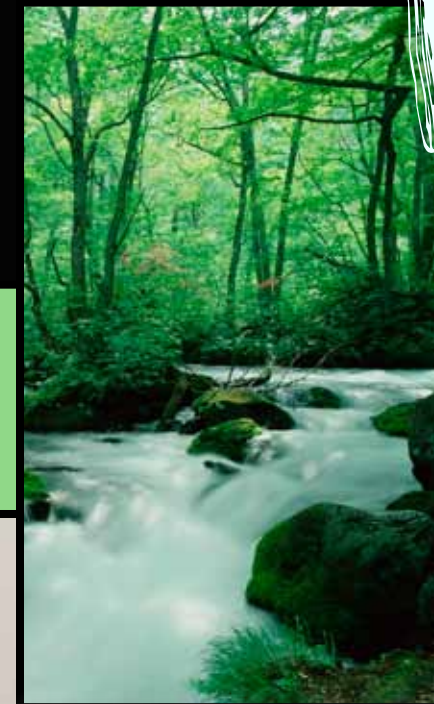
But guess what? The best research says that is not true. Research shows that wood has amazing properties that kill harmful bacteria. Life-threatening bacteria have been placed on plastic cutting boards as well as species of hardwood, including hard maple, birch, beech, black cherry, basswood, butternut, and American black walnut. Within three minutes, 99.9% of the bacteria put on the **wood** boards died. But none of the bacteria on **plastic** died. In fact, leaving microbe populations on the two surfaces overnight resulted in microbial **growth** on the plastic boards, while no live bacteria were recovered from wood the next morning.

Interestingly, bacteria are absorbed into the **wood**, but do not multiply, and rarely if ever come back alive. On the other hand, bacteria in knife scars on **plastic** boards can stay alive (even after a hot-water-and-soap wash) and can come back later and get into foods. Treating wood cutting boards with oils and other finishes to try to stop bacteria from staying on the wood actually slows down the wood's natural bacteria killing abilities. Some scientists are amazed because they have not been able to discover why or how wood has antibacterial properties.

So we are forced to conclude that wood, created by God, is superior in many ways to plastic made by man. But God's Word already hinted at the benefits of wooden cooking tools. Under the Law of Moses, written 3,500 years ago, the people were required to destroy their pottery when it became contaminated. But their **wood bowls only needed to be rinsed with water** (Leviticus 6:28; 11:32-33; 15:12)! It's nice to see scientists who work with food safety beginning to admit that science proves that wood is superior in many ways to plastic. Our God is amazing!



GOD Gave Us WOOD



Dave Miller

God is so loving and caring that He has provided for His creatures, especially when it comes to people. God has seen to it that we have all the necessities in order for us to live on Earth. He provides us with food, clothes, and shelter. Paul told the people in Lystra that God “gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17).

Think about how God has provided those things that are necessary to survive. According to Genesis 1:11-12, on the third day of Creation, God caused the Earth to bring forth trees. Trees have been very beneficial to humans. Not only have people used wood for tools (like hammer handles) and containers (like barrels and bowls), they have burned wood to keep warm and to cook food. Wood is very important in the construction of all kinds of buildings, including schools, church

buildings, and homes. Wood is used as the “skeleton” of the house, the siding that covers the outside of the house, and the roof that covers the top of the house. Wood is used for much of the furnishings of the house, from kitchen cabinets, couches, and chairs, to stairs, trim, and flooring. Even cardboard, like cereal boxes, is made from wood. Wood is **very** important for humans to live comfortably.

But some people think that humans should not be allowed to cut down trees for human use. They think that trees are as important as humans and should be saved and protected. God explained that such thinking is foolish and incorrect. The environment was made to provide God's creatures with the necessary supplies to live on Earth. Even many animals provide services for humans and must not be viewed as people. God says that humans will live beyond this life, but the entire creation, including trees, will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10).

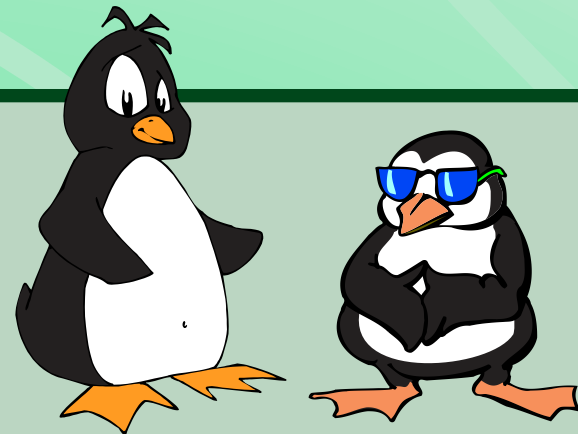
Let us thank God for all His wonderful blessings—including wood. And let us remember that our purpose in life is not to “save the planet,” but to obey the Creator (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

ACTIVITY PAGES

1. GOD "GAVE US RAIN FROM _____ AND FRUITFUL SEASONS, FILLING OUR HEARTS WITH FOOD AND GLADNESS" (ACTS 14:17).
2. "LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH GRASS, THE HERB THAT YIELDS SEED, AND THE FRUIT THAT YIELDS FRUIT ACCORDING TO ITS _____, WHOSE SEED IS IN ITSELF, ON THE EARTH" (GENESIS 1:11).
3. "MAKE YOURSELF AN ARK OF GOPHER _____" (GENESIS 6:14).



Dear Digger Doug,
How do penguins stay warm?
—Michael, Kalaheo, HI

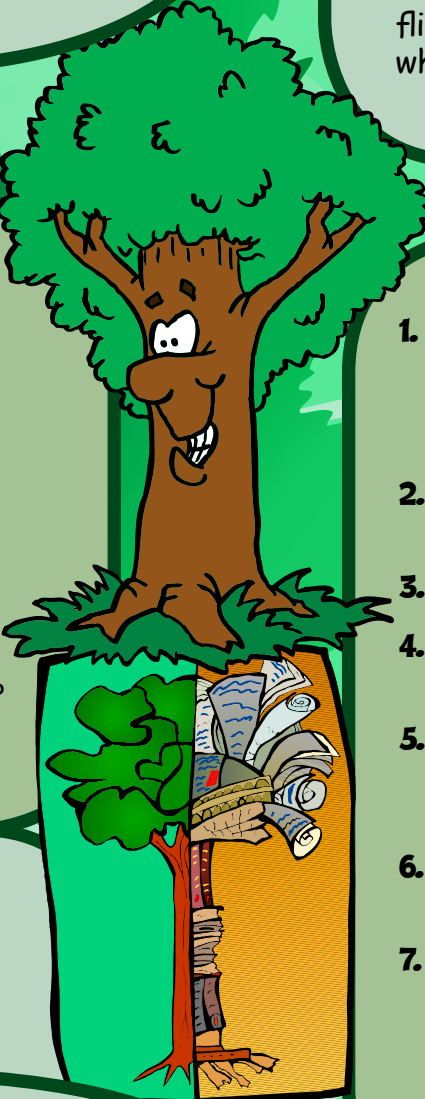


Dear Michael,
Thank you very much for sending an excellent question. We might think it's hard for the penguin to stay at a healthy temperature even in the bitter cold, but God has given the penguin advantages that help it survive Antarctic temperatures. A layer of overlapping feathers keep the penguin somewhat waterproof, and a thick layer of fat keeps the penguin warm while he swims. In fact, the blubber layer is the best form of natural insulation. The penguin tucks its flippers close to its body and shivers to generate and keep heat. Just like running and playing warms up your body, keeping active helps the penguin stay warm. Perhaps even more amazing is a special system of blood-flow that keeps the flippers warm, even in temperatures that would quickly give our toes frostbite! God knew what He was doing when He designed the penguin.

COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES (NKJV)

Information

P
VQA
MEGPP
THEGLJE
OECRNDKQR
ITVJD
ATZIGGQ
HMSLAIWAW
PTKAZTWOQHW
CLPHSVS
KTPTJFUQV
DOUGFXRIRLL
HPEWLAYSHRZLH
QAIPHEYLJ
ZQGAVZHLRCU
MSLPYCYSSCTRE
PAHWZZRAAIMPULP
DKNUEENMHBFB
ORNNLASZCHTCY
OPXFTMTYFGBSTKY
WONYSAXINDIUDGAGP
OTR
NBN
HCC



- | | |
|----------|---------|
| TREE | PAPER |
| PAPYRUS | PLASTIC |
| WOOD | ASHES |
| CREATION | |
| PULP | |

WORD SEARCH

MATCHING

1. _____ THE DAY OF CREATION ON WHICH GOD MADE TREES
2. _____ A HOLLOW REED THAT GROWS AROUND THE BANKS OF THE NILE RIVER
3. _____ THE KIND OF WOOD NOAH USED TO BUILD THE ARK
4. _____ GOD USED THIS TO CREATE EVERYTHING
5. _____ HAS A VERY WET, SOUPY TEXTURE
6. _____ THE THEORY THAT SAYS PLANTS CAME FROM NON-PLANTS AND CONTINUED TO TRANSFORM INTO SHRUBS AND TREES OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS
7. _____ THE NUMBER OF DAYS GOD SPENT CREATING PLANTS AND TREES
8. _____ WHAT IS LEFT OVER AFTER WOOD IS BURNED

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| A. ONE | E. EVOLUTION |
| B. BREATH OF HIS MOUTH | F. PAPYRUS |
| C. GOPHER | G. THREE |
| D. WOOD PULP | H. ASHES |

TRUE OR FALSE

1. _____ ACCORDING TO THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION, PLANTS EVOLVED MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO.
2. _____ THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IS A PROVEN FACT.
3. _____ PEOPLE RARELY USE WOOD.
4. _____ PAPER IS MADE FROM MELTED PLASTIC.
5. _____ RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WOOD HAS AMAZING PROPERTIES THAT CAN KILL HARMFUL BACTERIA.
6. _____ PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER CUT DOWN TREES.
7. _____ OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS DIRT TRANSFORMED INTO PLANTS, PLANTS INTO SHRUBS, AND SHRUBS INTO TREES.
8. _____ PAPYRUS IS A KIND OF PLASTIC.

ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

1. LIST TEN THINGS MADE OUT OF WOOD. (TRY TO LIST THINGS NOT MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE OF DISCOVERY.)
2. DISCUSS WHY IT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR HUMANS TO CUT DOWN TREES AND USE WOOD FOR A VARIETY OF THINGS.



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POUNDED To A Pulp

KYLE BUTT

We live in a time when writing notes is very easy to do. If you want to write someone, all you have to do is take a piece of paper from a notebook or pad and write your note with a pen, pencil, or marker. But sending a note has not always been so easy. In fact, ancient men and women once used clay, wood, or stone to write their notes. People who used clay, stone, and wood had some challenges. Clay can break easily, stone can be very heavy, and wood can be difficult to write on. For these reasons and others, people began to look for better ways to send notes.

In the land of Egypt, around the banks of the Nile River, a hollow reed named papyrus grows. Ancient Egyptians would harvest the plant, slit it down the middle, and roll it out flat. After gluing many of the reeds together, the workers would take a rock and smooth the surface of the papyrus so that it could be used just like pa-



per we write on today. Papyrus was light, easy to write on, and did not break if it was dropped. In fact, many of the books of the Bible were most likely first written on papyrus.

Today, however, there would not be enough papyrus to supply writing materials all over the world. So where does most of our paper come from? It comes from trees! Trees are made of millions of tiny fibers. These fibers are separated by cutting the trees into small chips and putting those chips in water and chemicals to make pulp. The wood pulp has a very wet, soupy texture. It is sprayed onto a wire mesh where the water begins to drain from the pulp. During this time, the tiny wood fibers begin to bond together in thin layers. The half-dried pulp then goes through hot, heavy rollers that squeeze the rest of the water out and dry the pulp into paper.

Isn't it wonderful that God gave humans the knowledge and ability to make paper and supplied us with enough trees to have all the paper we need? Just think, this issue of *Discovery* is printed on paper made from God's trees.



ANSWERS

COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES: 1. heaven; 2. tree, kind; 3. wood, MATCHING: 1. G (Three); 2. F (Papyrus); 3. C (Gopher); 4. B (Breath of His mouth); 5. D (Wood pulp); 6. E (Evolution); 7. A (One); 8. H (Ashes). TRUE OR FALSE: 1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. F.

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