

# WHERE DOES OUR WOOD COME FROM?



**ReForest London**  
planting the future today

\*\* adapted from Forests Ontario "Weird Wood"

## Balsam Fir

- Grows in coniferous forest from Alberta to Newfoundland
- Bark is covered in 'blisters' of resin
- Commonly used as Christmas Trees because of their pleasing shape and smell

## Resin

- Thick and sticky liquid made by coniferous trees
- Used for varnish, adhesives, incense and medicines
- Resin of the Cedar of Lebanon was used for mummification in Ancient Egypt

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## Sugar Maple

- Characteristic tree of the forest in southern Ontario and Quebec
- In the spring, sugars stored in the sap rise from the roots to help form the new leaf buds
- Leaves turn bright red and yellow in the fall

## Tree Sap

- Collected from trees in early spring
- Sugar and sap move from the roots upwards to the tree in the spring
- Trees are tapped by placing special metal tubes into the trunk
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## White Birch

- Found in every province of Canada, and in the northern United States
- Grows quickly after a forest disturbance (fire or windfall)
- Although not of high value for lumber, it is useful for furniture, fire wood and veneer

## Veneer Log

- Veneer is a very thin slice (<3mm) of a log cut either around or across
- This process increases the economic value of each log

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## Cork Oak

- Found in Mediterranean climates, it is native to North Africa and Southwestern Europe
- Cutting down a Cork Oak tree is illegal in Portugal except with special permission

## Corks

- Have been used as stoppers for bottles of wine and soda pop
- 300,000 tonnes of cork are produced in Europe each year
- Corks allow oxygen into wine bottles, allowing the wine to "age"

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## Balsa Tree

- Native to Brazil and Mexico but has been planted in many other countries
- A fast growing tree, it can grow to be 30 metres in 15 years
- Strength is provided by pockets in the trunk, filled by water when the tree is alive

## Trunk

- Is incredibly light because it is full of pockets
- Used in products that need to be light and strong, such as wind turbines, surfboards and airplanes (model and full-sized)
- Must be dried carefully before used

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TOOTHPICK  
AIRPLANE  
MAPLE SYRUP  
BUCKLEY'S COUGH SYRUP  
CORK



BALSAM FIR\*

SUGAR  
MAPLE\*

WHITE BIRCH\*

CORK OAK

BALSA TREE

Answers: Balsam Fir - Toothpick, Cork Oak - Cork, Balsa Tree - Airplane Syrup, White Birch - Buckley's Cough Syrup, Sugar Maple - Maple

\*Native tree