

Turpentine in Florida

The turpentine industry was a lucrative business that predates the Civil War, continuing through the Great Depression and post World War II eras. During the Civil war ships were made of wood, turpentine, pitch, and rosin to waterproof ships. Turpentine industry later turned to creating household products such as soap, paint, solvents, adhesives, polishes, etc.

Turpentine has been used medically since ancient times for treatments such as lice or when combined with animal fat it can be rubbed on the chest for nasal and throat ailments.

Charles Henry created the process called the “cat fact cut” in 1903. This technique was created because many regions in the Carolinas and Georgia were becoming tapped out due to the methods used to gather sap and trees were dying prematurely. The “cat face cut” involved cutting two diagonal slices in the trees followed by attaching drip trays with a pot to collect sap.

The turpentine industry also has an ugly side. Originally turpentine and rosin created dangerous toxic fumes as a result of them being separated by high heat fires. The industry also has harsh working conditions and it greatly impacts the environment. The early methods killed forests and the distilling process left hazardous residues. Today turpentine is used mostly as a solvent but it is still considered a hazardous and flammable material.

Objectives:

First Grade:

Raise questions about the natural world and investigate these questions in teams and come up with appropriate explanations for questions.

Use a map and locate Osceola County.

Write a paragraph on the turpentine industry.

Recall three facts about the turpentine industry in paragraph.

Compare and order whole numbers to 100.

Science:

SC.1.N.1.1 Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them in teams through free exploration, and generate appropriate explanations based on those explorations.

Explore the turpentine exhibit in teams and write down any questions you have and come up with answers to them with your team.

Social Studies:

SS.1.G.1.1 Use physical and political/cultural maps to locate places in Florida.

A process to separate turpentine from the resin was developed in Osceola County located in Florida. Use a map and locate Osceola County.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.1.4.2.3 The student will write an informational/expository paragraph that contains a topic sentence and at least three details;

Write a paragraph discussing the turpentine exhibit. Your paragraph should include a topic sentence and at least three details about the turpentine exhibit.

Mathematics:

MA.1.A.2.1 Compare and order whole numbers at least to 100.

Imagine that you have many pounds of turpentine in numerous containers weighing different amounts each:

35 lbs. of turpentine
26 lbs. of turpentine
42 lbs. of turpentine
9 lbs. of turpentine
18 lbs. of turpentine
71 lbs. of turpentine
44 lbs. of turpentine
91 lbs. of turpentine
68 lbs. of turpentine
50 lbs. of turpentine
93 lbs. of turpentine

Organize the containers of turpentine from lightest to heaviest.