

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:

Second Grade:

Ask appropriate “how do you know” questions.

Attempt reasonable answers to “how do you know” questions

Use terms that designate time sequence in a paragraph about the turpentine industry.

Record observations and other relevant information about the turpentine exhibit

Recall basic addition and subtraction facts.

Science:

SC.2.N.1.3 Ask "how do you know?" in appropriate situations and attempt reasonable answers when asked the same question by others.

Write down at least one “how do you know” question about the turpentine exhibit and have your classmates come up with possible answers.

Social Studies:

SS.2.A.3.1 Identify terms and designations of time sequence.

Use terms that discuss time sequence and write a paragraph about the turpentine exhibit.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.2.4.2.2 The student will record information (e.g., observations, notes, lists, charts, map labels, legends) related to a topic;

Record your observations and any other relevant information about the turpentine exhibit.

Mathematics:

MA.2.A.2.1 Recall basic addition and related subtraction facts.

3 lbs. of turpentine + 5 lbs. of turpentine =

6 lbs. of turpentine – 2 lbs. of turpentine =

8 lbs. of turpentine – 5 lbs. of turpentine =

4 lbs. of turpentine + 5 lbs. of turpentine =