

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:

Fourth Grade:

Recognize how the turpentine industry impacted the environment.

Use primary and secondary sources to research the turpentine industry.

Identify primary and secondary sources

Write at least a 2 minute speech about the turpentine exhibit.

Give an oral presentation maintaining proper eye contact, body movement, and voice.

Listen to classmates speeches and write down one thing each classmate talked about.

Understand how to find the area of a rectangle using the area = base x height formula.

Science:

SC.4.L.17.4 Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

How did the turpentine industry impact the environment?

Social Studies:

SS.4.A.1.1 Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history.

Use primary and secondary sources and research the Florida turpentine industry. Keep track of what sources you used by writing them down and label them as primary and secondary sources and include what you learned from each source.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.4.5.2.1 The student will listen to information presented orally and show an understanding of key points;

LA.4.5.2.2 The student will plan, organize, and give an oral presentation and use appropriate voice, eye, and body movements for the topic, audience, and occasion; Write at least a 2 minute speech about your favorite part of the turpentine exhibit and what you learned from this exhibit. Give an oral presentation to your class using proper eye contact, body movement, and voice. Also listen to your other classmates give their presentations and write down one thing each student talked about.

Mathematics:

MA.4.G.3.2 Justify the formula for the area of the rectangle "area = base x height".

Imagine that you have a rectangular area of trees that you plan on extracting turpentine from and the area has the given measurements, what is the area?

