

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 face 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:

Sixth Grade:

Explain the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation and discuss the limitations of each.

Estimate the distance between places on a current map.

Understand the ugly side of turpentine and write an essay on it.

Essay should have a thesis statement, supporting details, introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs.

Use additional resources to gather appropriate information.

Record bibliographic data appropriately

Compare and order decimals and locate them on a number line.

Science:

SC.6.N.1.3 Explain the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation, and explain the relative benefits and limitations of each.

Regions in the Carolinas and Florida became tapped out due to the methods used to gather sap.

Charles Henry patented the process called the “cat face cut” in 1903. Do you the “cat face cut” was the result of an experiment or another type of scientific investigation and why? What is the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation and what are the limitations of each?

Social Studies:

SS.6.G.1.5 Use scale, cardinal, and intermediate directions, and estimation of distances between places on current and ancient maps of the world.

In the panel discussing the Ugly Side of Turpentine what happened in Osceola County? Use a map and estimate the distance from any town in Brevard County to any town in Osceola County.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.6.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository essays (e.g., process, description, explanation, comparison/contrast, problem/solution) that include a thesis statement, supporting details, and introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs; Write an essay discussing the ugly side of turpentine. Use additional resources to gather more information. Your essay should include a thesis statement, supporting details, and introductory, body, and a concluding paragraph. Also, record all bibliographic date and use quotes when necessary.

Mathematics:

MA.6.A.5.2 Compare and order fractions, decimals, and percents, including finding their approximate location on a number line.

Imagine that you found 8 containers of turpentine with different numbers amounts of turpentine in each:

- A.) 12.4 lbs. of turpentine
- B.) 20.3 lbs. of turpentine
- C.) 17.2 lbs. of turpentine
- D.) 82.1 lbs. of turpentine
- E.) 36.7 lbs. of turpentine
- F.) 91.2 lbs. of turpentine
- G.) 67.4 lbs. of turpentine
- H.) 54.9 lbs. of turpentine

Put the containers of turpentine in order from lightest to heavies on a number line.