

3.51 Using bamboo

Topic: Plants
Subtopic: Habitats
Activity type/skill: Finding and recording information
Literacy focus: Writing
Genre: Questions

Objective

- Obtain information from texts.
- Categorise and record information from two sources.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)
- [Audio track 3.51](#)

What to do

1. Introduce the subject of bamboo and make a star diagram of the students' knowledge on the board.
2. Play track 3.51 (Track 14 for this topic) and have students look at the first page of the student worksheet and look at the pictures while they listen.
3. Discuss and make a list together on the board of the uses of bamboo they have heard and seen.
4. Have the students look at the second page of the student worksheet, read the information about using bamboo and add to the list on the board.
5. Look at the third page of the student worksheet and have students transfer the information from the board to the appropriate boxes on the grid in note form and add any information of their own. This is the plan for writing an information report on the uses of bamboo.
6. Remind the students of the structure of an information report:
 - introduction – naming and classifying
 - adding more information in logical order – each section should have a general statement followed by details.
7. Work together to construct an introduction on the board. For example:

Uses of bamboo

Bamboo is a kind of grass. It is stiff and flexible too. Some kinds of bamboo are very small like ordinary grass and other kinds are very, very tall. Bamboo grows very quickly.

8. Help the students complete draft copies on scrap paper and check their word usage and grammar with them as they write. Encourage them to find their own mistakes.
9. When they have finished, proofread together for spelling and punctuation.
10. Students write a final copy on the fourth page of the student worksheet.

Extending the activity

- Have students research, plan and write about the uses of another plant in the same way. Make sure they use more than one text in their research.

Activity fifty-one



Track 14



Using bamboo

Using growing bamboo

Bamboo is used for shade, windbreaks, and noise barriers. It is a beautiful plant and is used throughout the world in gardens.

Bamboo is very fast growing (one kind of bamboo can grow up to one metre a day) so it is planted in places where it is important that plants grow quickly.

Bamboo in industry and farming

In heavy industry, bamboo can be used for pipes, ropes, tools, fuel and carts.

In farming it is used for tools, animal food, windbreaks and fertiliser.

In fishing, bamboo is used for ropes and nets, fishing rods and carrying poles.

In building, it is used to make whole buildings. In some ways it is stronger than steel. Bamboo buildings are long-lasting, safe and strong. Bamboo buildings are safe in earthquakes.

Inside the buildings bamboo is used for the walls and tile floors. The furniture can be made of bamboo and even the pipes that bring in water.

Bamboo makes excellent paper. In fact the first paper in the world was made from bamboo.

Bamboo and medicine

Bamboo can be used to treat asthma, coughs and colds.

In China black bamboo is used to help people with kidney disease and cancer.

Bamboo sap is used to treat fevers and bamboo ash soothes prickly heat.

Bamboo and food

Throughout Asia people love to eat bamboo shoots. The people of Taiwan eat about 80,000 tonnes of bamboo shoots every year.

Both land animals and fish, eat bamboo leaves and shoots.

Uses of bamboo

introduction

What is bamboo?

What does it look like?

What is it like?

used for
shelter

fibres and
materials

fuels

medicines

to look
beautiful

as food

in industry
and farming

Activity fifty-one

