

Resource Cards

<p>Resin: Lac are scale insects (<i>Laccifer Lacca</i>) which live on trees where they secrete resin which is then scraped off and manufactured into shellac. To produce just 1 kilogram of lac resin takes 300,000 insects. Scale insects can be very destructive to trees – stunting or killing twigs and branches by draining the sap. With a 6-month life cycle, the lac industry obtains two lac crops each year from each tree. The resin-encrusted branches are harvested.</p>	<p>Cedar Logs: These are cut into pencil stock, are transported to the slat factory, where thin slats are made with the help of a circular saw. These slats are sorted as per the width and grain and then are stained, before transporting them to the pencil factory.</p>
<p>Brass: The copper and zinc are melted together, and the brass is cast into ingots and rolled into sheets.</p>	<p>Castor Oil: The castor bean plant, <i>Ricinus communis</i>, is a native of tropical Africa cultivated in several varieties for the oil found in its leaves and for its bold foliage. Castor beans are pressed to extract castor oil.</p>
<p>Oil: Cotton, rapeseed, sunflower, soybean and safflower are major oil seed crops but oil seed crops are still minor crops due to their seasonal nature. Oil seed gives low yield per acre. Oil extraction from seeds further reduces its yield. In Malaysia and Indonesia thousands acres of land are under cultivation with all facilities available nearby which provides economies of scale.</p>	<p>Rubber is made from latex, which is produced by hevea, or rubber, trees. The “rubber belt” lies within 700 miles on each side of the Equator. Trees can be tapped about 5 to 7 years after planting for about 35 to 40 years. About a hundred trees grow on 1 acre, and each full-grown tree produces from 1 to 4 gallons of latex a year. Latex is then processed into crude rubber and manufacturers process it further and make it into products.</p>
<p>Graphite: This is one of the softest minerals. It occurs in nature as a smooth, black solid that is greasy to the touch. It is hardened with clay to produce the “lead” in pencils. The name comes from a Greek word meaning to write. After it is mined, it is ground and then purified in settling tanks before marketing.</p>	<p>Pumice: This is igneous rock which was formed when lava cooled quickly above ground. You can see where little pockets of air had been. It consists of a network of gas bubbles frozen among fragile volcanic glass and minerals. This rock is so light, that many pumice rocks will actually float in water. Pumice is actually a kind of glass and not a mixture of minerals.</p>