

Houseplants: Plant Products in Your Home

(NatureScope Trees are Terrific: page 65, 70)

First Grade Core: Standard 3 Objective 1
Identify how people use plants.

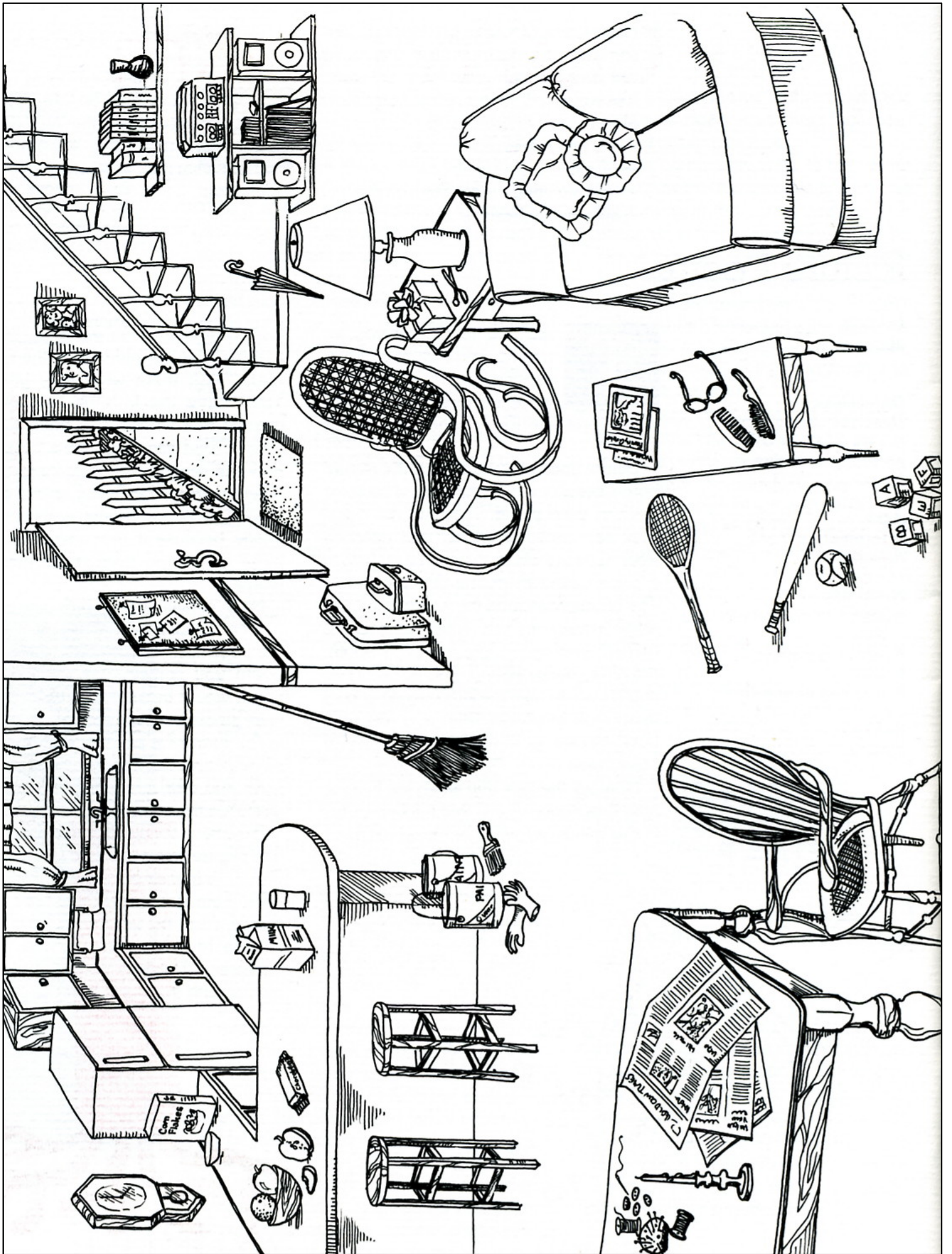
Materials:

- Crayons
- Information on different plant products (for the teacher)
- The house scene printed up for each child

Procedure:

1. Print up the house scene for each child.
2. Pass out the paper and crayons.
3. Ask your students to color anything in the picture that is made of plants in some way. There are more than 40 things in the picture that are made, in some way, from plants.
4. Afterward, go over the answers using the information on plant products.





Useful Plant Information

- **Building with wood:** Most lumber is used to construct houses and other buildings. But some is used to make athletic equipment, crates, furniture, tool handles, wooden toys, works of art, and more.
 - **Wooden products in the picture:** banister, baseball bat, blocks, bookshelf, broom handle, bulletin board frame, cabinets, chairs, clock, counter, door, fence, fruit bowl, molding (on walls), paintbrush handle, picture frames, sofa, stairs, stereo cabinet, speakers, spools for thread, stools, tables, tennis racket, umbrella handle, window frame, wood inside walls.
- **Making Paper:** Paper is made from cellulose, the major component of cell walls in most plants. Most paper in the U.S. is made with cellulose that comes from trees.
 - **Paper products in the picture:** books, candy wrapper, cereal box, gift (wrapping and box), magazines, milk container, newspaper, notes on bulletin board, paper towels, record album cover.
- **More Cellulose:** Besides being used to make paper, cellulose is also one of the ingredients for many other products. For example, it can be mixed with certain chemicals, turned into a thick liquid, and then squeezed through small holes or slits to form fibers—to make carpeting or conveyer belts or fabric! Different kinds of plastic films such as cellophane are also made of cellulose.
 - **Cellulose products in the picture:** buttons, comb, curtains, eyeglasses frame, hair-brush handle, luggage, pillows, rug, upholstery on sofa.
- **Bark:** Tree bark has a lot of different uses. Spongy bark of the cork oak tree is stripped off and made into bottle cap liners, floats, and even heat shields for space vehicles. Chemicals in the bark of some trees also have uses (the chemical *tannin* cures leather).
 - **Bark products in the picture:** Baseball (has a cork center!), bulletin board.
- **Saps, gums and resins:** Gums and resins can be used to make many things like cosmetics, mouthwash, paint thinner, perfumes, soap and coatings for vitamins. Other trees produce a special juice called latex that can be used to make hoses, rubber tires, and other rubber products!
 - **Gum, resin and rubber products in the picture:** paint, rubber gloves
- **Eating Tree Food:** People eat fruit, nuts, roots and bark of many different trees.
 - **Tree foods in the Picture:** apples, chocolate bar (cacao tree beans), orange