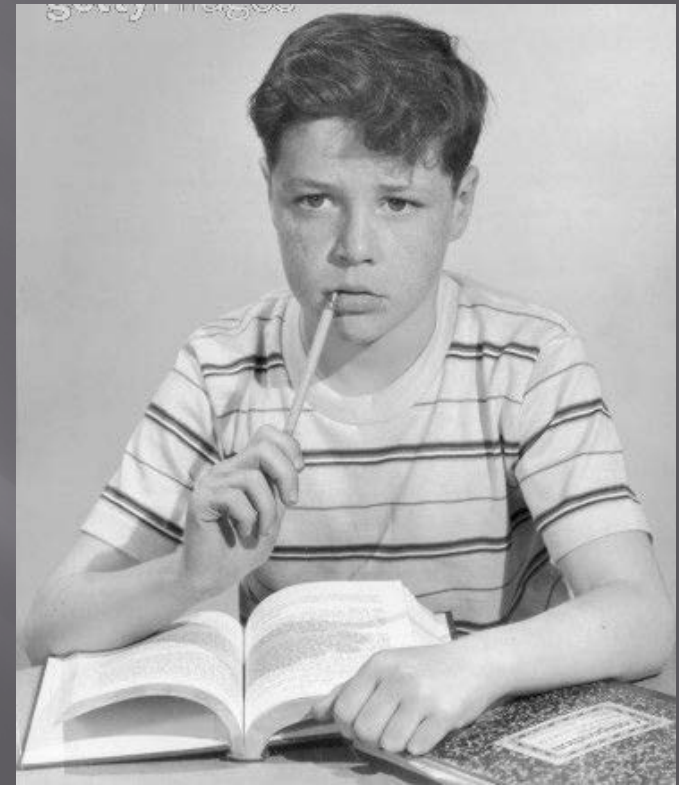


## Teacher, May I Borrow a Pencil?

It has happened to all of us—When we try to work out answers to the assigned questions, we need something with which to write.

Think of how often you have asked the question in the title, but have you ever asked *where* your pencil originated?





A misty forest path with a stack of logs in the foreground. The path is covered in fallen leaves and ferns, leading into a dense forest of tall trees. The air is thick with mist, creating a serene and somewhat mysterious atmosphere. In the bottom left corner, a stack of cut logs is visible, showing the raw material used for pencils.

Much of  
the wood  
comes  
from  
China,  
Russia,  
and the  
USA.

First of all, most  
pencils today are  
made from wood—  
a long term  
renewable  
resource.

Pencil companies like Dixon and  
Faber-Castel use the wood from  
thousands of trees each year,  
to supply us with pencils.



What we call pencil lead is now made from graphite or clay.



Much of the graphite and clay used in pencils comes from China.



The lacquers and inks used to protect and design the pencils are often harmful to earth once these pencils are thrown out.

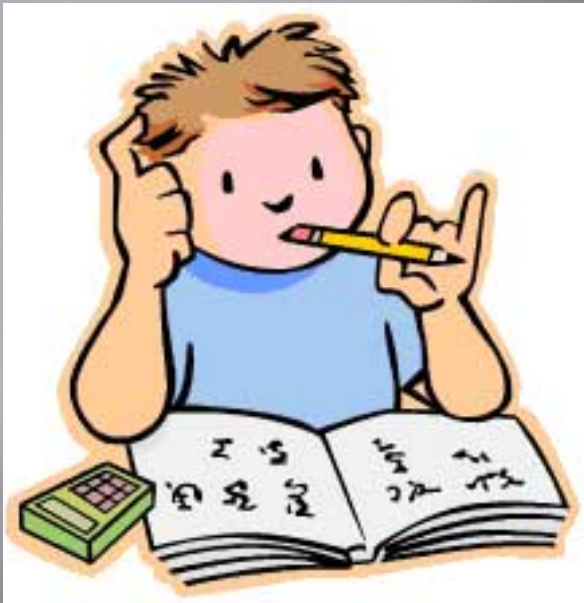
Bet you didn't realize how many resources went into making a simple pencil.





Don't forget about the  
erasers found on most  
pencils.

Often times the  
chemical sulphur  
chloride is used  
in erasers as a  
stabilizing agent



When you think about it, a lot of people—lumberjacks, trimmers, graphite grinders, manufacturers, groovers, etc.—are involved in the creation of a pencil.



So the next time you ask  
for a pencil, remember to  
be careful with it.

A lot of people use a lot of  
resources to bring you this  
simple educational tool.



## Bibliography

*"The Story of Pencils." Pencils.com.  
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