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THE Humble Bamboo

A POWERFUL WEAPON AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

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A Powerful Weapon Against Climate Change

Tara had just finished her project on pandas when she came across an article extolling the virtues of bamboo. The sub-heading boldly proclaimed that the "Humble Bamboo Will Help Fight Climate Change." Intrigued, she read on.

The article explained that bamboo is an effective tool in



the battle against climate change. Not only does bamboo release 35% more oxygen than other plants, but it also stores 20% more carbon dioxide from the environment. This discovery was exciting for Tara, who had always been interested in environmental issues.

Fast-growing and flexible, bamboo plants and



products can store more carbon than certain types of trees. There are at least 30 million hectares of bamboo in tropical and subtropical areas of the world. Bamboo matures in 4 to 5 years, whereas hardwood trees take almost 60 years to mature. Bamboo is also a source of food, fiber, and fuel. Its durable products can store carbon for several

years, and they are long-lasting, recyclable, and can be used as a substitute for PVC, aluminum, steel, and concrete.



Moreover, bamboo's extensive root system binds earth and restores soil health, even in the driest landscapes. Tara learned that a friend's sister had started to manufacture bamboo-fiber towels and socks, and she had also seen



commercials promoting bamboo-based beverages. She was amazed to discover that a Japanese company had been manufacturing bamboo for Lexus car dashboards and steering wheels. In fact, over 1000 products are made from bamboo, and every section of bamboo can be used to manufacture different products.

Inspired by what she had learned, Tara decided to get some bamboo décor for her room. She already had patio furniture made of bamboo, and now she began to dream of reclining on a bamboo swing while sipping a bamboo beverage, the gentle movement of the swing lulling her into sleep. Tara realized that bamboo could be a powerful weapon against climate change, and she felt hopeful that her generation could make a positive impact on the planet.



New Words

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Virtues - good qualities | 2. Durable - able to withstand wear, pressure, or damage | 3. Recyclable - able to be processed for reuse |
|------------------------------------|---|---|

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

Comprehension

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. How can bamboo help combat climate change? | 4. Which car has a bamboo steering wheel? |
| 2. How long does it take for the bamboo plant to mature? | 5. What kind of bamboo products would you be interested in buying? |
| 3. How does the bamboo plant restore soil health? | 6. Name some bamboo products that you have seen when you go out. |

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

Prompts Pair up

1. **Bamboo Scavenger Hunt:** Go on a scavenger hunt around your school or neighbourhood to find products made from bamboo. See how many different types of bamboo products you can find and discuss the unique features and benefits of bamboo.
2. **Create a Bamboo Art Project:** Using bamboo sticks and art supplies, create an art project inspired by bamboo.

Display the artwork and discuss the beauty and versatility of bamboo as a material.

Watch the video on the bamboo plants by using the QR code.



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