

Veneer Technology

Subject(s): Math/Science

Grade Level: 4th - 6th

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Elementary

Time Required: 60 minute class period

Lesson Objectives:

The students will learn the meaning of veneer and some of its advantages and disadvantages

Materials Needed:

Four boxes of modeling clay (four sticks per box), heavy fishing line, ½” dowel cut to 3” lengths, rulers.

Procedure:

As building technologies became more advanced, the need for bigger and bigger dimensions of lumber arose. Each pair of students gets a stick of clay, which they roll into a cylinder about 2” long. This will represent the log. Using an 18” piece of fishing line, tie each end to a piece of dowel. This device will represent the saw blade. Students will use the blade to cut the log. Ask them to try and cut the largest piece of wood they possibly can using their log and blade. They are not allowed to smash the clay to flatten it out; they must treat it as if it were real wood. Tell groups that the pair with the biggest piece gets a prize afterward.

If, after each group has tried for about 20 minutes, no group hits upon the idea of “veneering” the log, introduce the concept. Have students roll their logs back up and try again. Award prizes for any group who cuts their sheet of veneer bigger than the original log’s dimensions. Follow with a discussion on the pluses (larger cut sizes) and minuses (thinner boards) of veneer technology.

Discussion:

1. What is the definition of veneer in our dictionary?
2. What is the advantage of veneer technology?
3. What is the disadvantage of veneer technology?
4. Draw a picture of what you think a veneer saw looks like.