

There are over three hundred kinds of wood used in Britain for all sorts of jobs. In the whole world there are probably over twenty thousand types of wood. Often woods are described as Hardwoods or Softwoods.

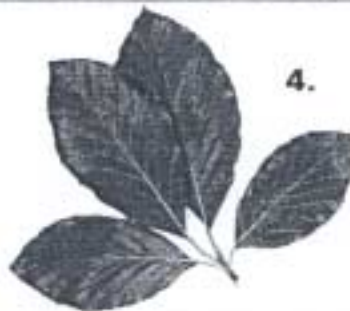
SOFTWOOD is wood from conifers – such as Scots pine, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce. Nearly all these trees are evergreen and their leaves are shaped like needles.

HARDWOOD is wood from deciduous broadleaved trees such as oak, beech and mahogany.

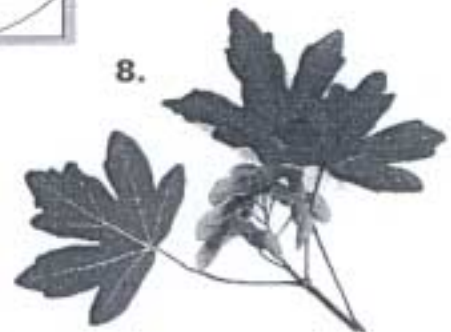
So hardwood comes from a hardwood tree and softwood comes from a softwood tree.



Look at the pictures below. Use books and posters to help you identify the tree they came from. Label each one and write whether it would produce hardwood or softwood. The first one is done for you.



1.	This is a Douglas Fir. It produces softwood.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.



BEWARE! It can be confusing. Some softwoods are actually quite hard. For example, the wood from a yew tree is hard although it has needle leaves. And balsa wood, which is very soft, comes from a broadleaved tree, and is therefore a hardwood.