



Dig A Little Deeper

What's In A pen•cil Besides Wood?



Geography: Create raw materials origin map.

The cedar wood is from the forests in California and Oregon. The graphite (not lead) might come from Montana or Mexico, and is reinforced with clays from Kentucky and Georgia.

The eraser is made from soybean oil, latex from trees in South America, reinforced with pumice from California or New Mexico, and sulfur, calcium, and barium.

The metal band is aluminum or brass, made from copper and zinc, mined in no less than 13 states and nine Canadian provinces.

The paint to color the wood and the lacquer to make it shine are made from a variety of different minerals and metals, as is the glue that holds the wood together.

How many countries does it take to make a pencil?

For information about minerals in society, contact:
Mineral Information Institute at www.mii.org

Math/Science: Count measure, classify, graph classroom pencils.

Writing: Acrostic poem "pencil pal" biography.

Social Studies: Research development of pencil.