

Multi Media Task 5. Tracing the power poles back to North East Tasmania's forests

Student Outcomes

- Know what features are selected for in trees for power poles
- Understand that logs are treated with preservatives to increase their life span

Internet task: Using the internet, listen and watch the Forest Learning video 'Going Bush – Tracing the power poles back to North East Tasmania's forests' at

http://www.forestlearning.edu.au/Resources/Going-Bush-Timber_power-Poles (4.44 minutes duration). Answer the following questions

(a) Explain what features are necessary when selecting trees for power poles

(b) Describe the stages involved with producing a power pole, commencing with tree harvest

(c) How do they ensure that the fragile outer sapwood is not damaged during debarking?

(d) What is the range in lengths selected for power poles (m)?

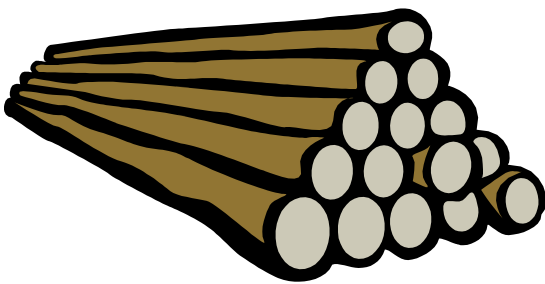
(e) Why are power poles treated with preservatives?

(f) What technique is used in the preservation cylinder to remove air from the sapwood?



ANSWERS – Tracing the power poles back to North East Tasmania’s forests

- (a) Trees need to be hard and strong for long lasting power poles, have straight trunks and be free of limbs. Australian hardwood native species are most suited due to slow growth that produces dense wood, accounting for their hardness
- (b) Cut the tree down; debark with a machine; cut log to 9 - 15 metre length; season in timber yard for up to 8 months; then treat with preservatives
- (c) A piece of wood is used in the machine to rub the bark off gently
- (d) 9 to 15 metres in length
- (e) Preservatives increase the life span of the poles from around 15 to 40 years once in the ground
- (f) Vacuum air removal creates spaces that can be replaced with preservatives in the cylinder



Acknowledgement: Written by Andrea Jane Leys PhD