

Supplementary Worksheet for Timber Harvesting in Shelby County (1976)

This student film from 1976 looks at the process of harvesting timber in Timpson. Joining a contractor at a job site, the film captures multiple stages of the process, from cutting down trees to loading them onto a truck. The Timpson High School students who produced the film also interview the contractor and the landowner about the industry and how it has changed.

This worksheet is designed to help you gather information from the film about the benefits and disadvantages of the timber industry. Answer the questions completely and determine which position the filmmakers and the film's participants would take.

What are some of the reasons that the landowner gives for cutting down trees?

He would like to clear his property for grazing/growing grass. When he worked to clear his land previously, they left the trees on the ground. Timber is valuable and it can be a waste to leave it.

Why is cutting down hardwood trees worse than cutting down pine?

Hardwood trees take longer to grow than pine.

Why do you think someone would cut down trees and leave the lumber?

[This is the student's opinion and not clearly stated in the film] Some reasons may be: It is difficult to cut up and move the wood out, the area from which they are clearing timber is isolated and not easily accessible by vehicle, transporting and cutting up lumber can be dangerous, etc.

What are some of the ways the lumber has industry changed in Robert Carter's time?

Early lumber workers used hand saws and had to load and unload lumber by hand. Machinery has improved the work.

According to Robert Carter, what are some of the benefits of modern equipment? What does this imply is a problem with the lumber industry?

It frees up time for children to start work later or not go into work. They could then spend more time in school/studying.

What problems do you think people working in the timber industry might have? Why?

[Student's opinion]

Worksheet A Teacher's Key

Vocabulary:

Cord –

120 cubic feet of timber

Plywood –

Lumber made from faster growing trees and softer wood

Hardwood –

Trees that have a denser wood and take longer to grow