

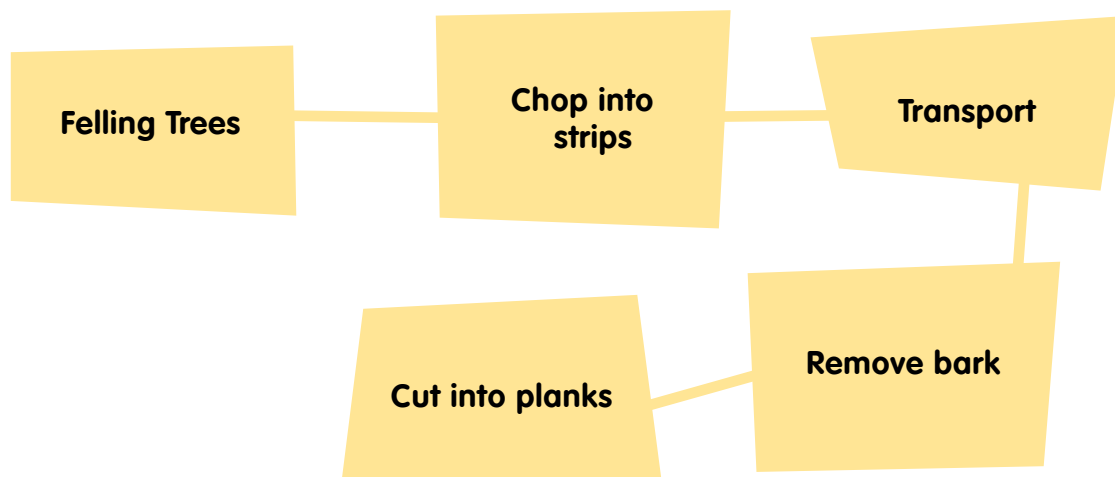
BUILDINGS: Tradespeople and Materials

A material is a substance from which something is made. All materials have different properties and, as such, some materials will be better for some jobs than others. The type of material used will be based on the resources available, budget, location and purpose of what is being built.

The building material industry involves not just selling and supplying materials, but also converting them from their raw natural state into a finished product.

For example, the process of turning tree wood into timber involves the following:

TURNING TIMBER INTO WOOD



This process involves machinery, buildings (mills, warehouses and offices) and transport.

Activity

Wood is a common building material in the UK, but there are others, such as steel, concrete, brick and glass, that are also very commonly used. Research and design a flow diagram detailing the manufacturing process and tradespeople involved in the production of float glass, also known as sheet glass.

Think about:

- what glass is made from
- how it is heated and cooled
- how it is flattened into sheets and what the thickness and colour of these are
- how it is cut to size
- how it is packaged, shipped and sold
- who is involved in all these different stages and what do they do.