

Properties of Birch Bark

Birch bark was a valuable material for constructing many useful items. First Nations peoples in North America used birch bark to make containers, canoes, instruments, clothing, and more.

What are some of the characteristics of birch bark that make it a useful material?

- it is strong
- it is water-resistant
- can be easily cut
- it bends easily
- can be sewn together
- it floats in the water
- it is lightweight

Using a sample of birch bark, try testing its characteristics.

TRY THIS: making a fun and easy birch bark canoe. Here's how:

Supplies

Birch Bark

Glue (a glue gun works best but Elmer's glue will work too but you will need to hold the ends together until the glue dries)

Scissors

Instructions

1. Cut a strip of bark 8cm wide and 13cm long.
2. Cut the ends of the bark to resemble a *V* shape. The *V* should be 1cm deep.
3. Fold the bark in half lengthwise.
4. On each of the ends overlap the bark until the top edges are even and you have a canoe shape.
5. Glue the ends together
6. After the glue dries try seeing if the canoe floats.

