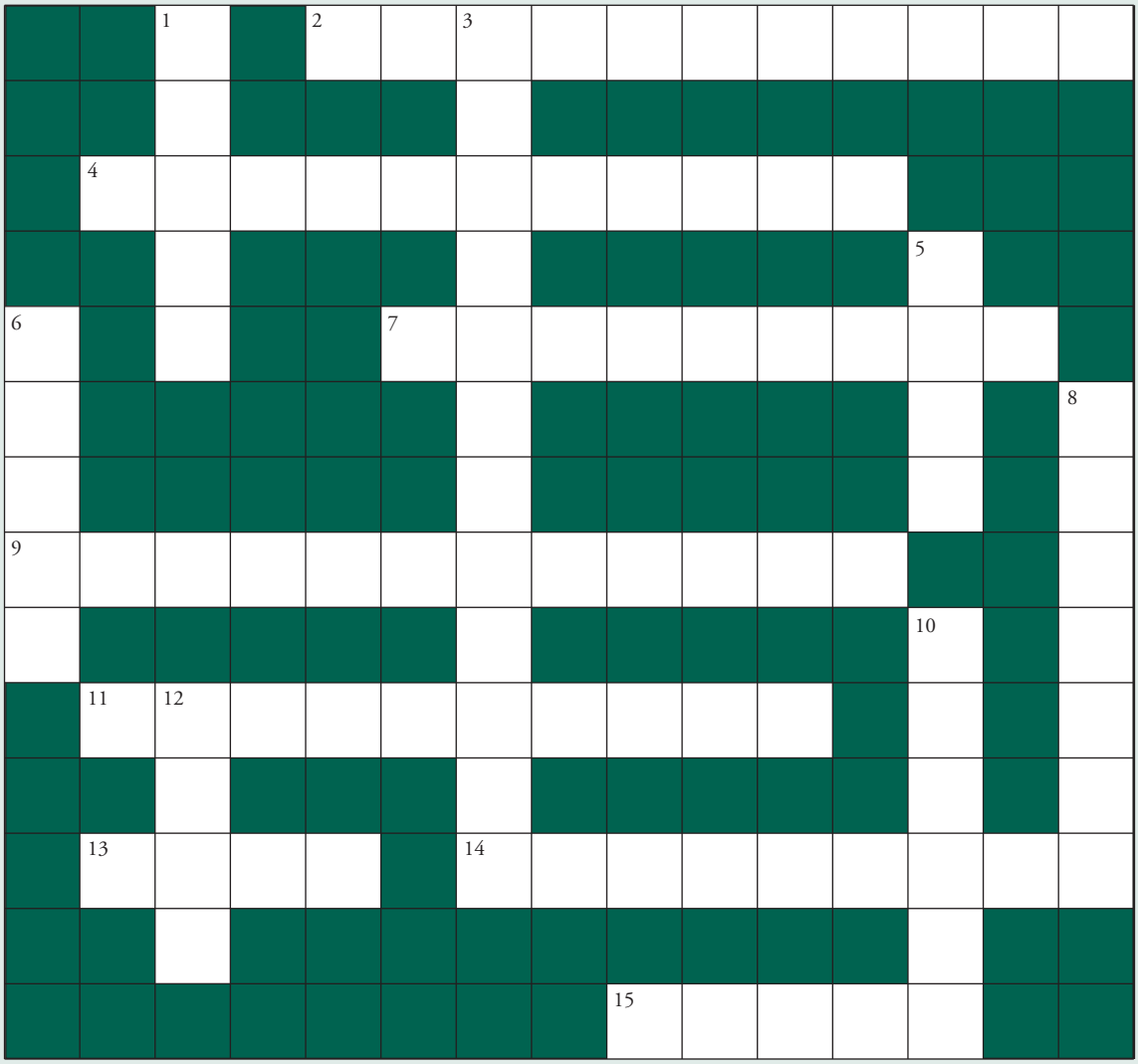
The 'About wood' challenge

LEVEL 1 - Read Primefact 541 'About wood' then complete:



Across

2. Able to keep in existence
4. Counted to discover the age of some trees
7. Support layer of a tree
9. Source of timber in NSW
11. Crop of trees
13. Dead corky material
14. Broad-leaved trees
15. Wood tissue

Down

1. Native softwood
3. Eucalyptus sieberi
5. Renewable material
6. Soft hardwood
8. Durable native timber
10. Bark tissue
12. Tree food factory

LEVEL 2 - Complete the questions below.

*1. Why are the terms **softwood** and **hardwood** not really appropriate when used to describe different types of timber?*

2. A large part of the world's timber trade and use of wood is based on conifers (softwood). Why do you think this is the case?

3. In parts of the Northern Hemisphere, wood from historic and archaeological sites has proved valuable in providing information about climate patterns of many centuries ago. How can wood provide information about climate patterns, in particular changes in climate patterns?

4. The sapwood of some trees is treated with preservatives before being used for some purposes. Why? Heartwood does not need to be treated. Why?

LEVEL 3 - Undertake the tasks below.

1. Examine samples of wood available as offcuts from your local timber merchant (timber yard or hardware), around your home or at school.

- **What features can you easily see in each of these samples?**
- **What features distinguish the different samples from each other?**
- **What can the different woods be used for?**
- **Find out what species of tree produced each of the samples.**

2. List the ways you use wood in a single day. Consider what you use during the day, for example, wood is used in your home and school (in building frames and furniture), and is used to produce paper and cardboard, as well as many other things.

3. Imagine life without wood.

- **What substitutes would we use?**
- **Where would these substitutes come from?**
- **What impact would the use of these substitutes have on the environment?**