



Bamboo cricket bats

What is happening?

Cricket bats are made of willow but there is a shortage of willow in the world. Scientists think that bamboo might have suitable properties for making cricket bats.

How do we know this?

- Scientists compared the properties of a willow cricket bat and a bamboo cricket bat. They measured how squashy, bendy, hard, shaky and bouncy each bat was.
- The bamboo cricket bat has very similar properties to a willow bat but is heavier.

Why is this important?

- For nearly 200 years, cricket bats have been made of English willow which is shipped all over the world.
- It can take almost 15 years for a willow tree to grow and be ready to be used.
- There is now a shortage of high quality willow to make cricket bats. The demand for English willow is greater than what can be supplied worldwide. It is unsustainable.

What else can you find out?

- Think of a sport you play - What are the important properties of the equipment? How do those properties affect the choice of materials used?
- Use these QR codes to find out more about bamboo and its properties. What else is bamboo used for?

<https://video.link/w/5YdTc>

KEY FACTS

Willow

Willow is a tree that takes at least 6 years to mature. Its wood is strong and hard - ideal properties for a cricket bat.

Bamboo

Bamboo is a grass with a similar structure to wood; it is fast growing and cheap.

Properties of cricket bats

Cricket bats must be light, strong, hard and comfortable to use. They should not be squashy, bendy (flexible), bouncy or shaky (vibrating).

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), who regulate the laws of cricket, currently insist that the blade of a cricket bat must be made of wood. This is due to be discussed again at the next laws committee meeting and there could still be a future for bamboo cricket bats.

