

Focus on Timber Worksheet 4: The structure of timber

Use the internet to find a synonym or definition for the words and phrases in the passage that have been underlined – remember to keep your answers in context (relevant to the topic being discussed)

The essential difference between hardwoods and softwoods is the presence of vessels in hardwoods. These are continuous pipes running the length of the tree and serve as conduits for water and nutrients in the outer layers of wood in a growing tree. The actual cells in the softwood species have the same function as the vessels in hardwoods.

The cells constitute fibres and have the main direction of orientation in the longitudinal direction (parallel to the trunk of the tree). The individual cells are stuck together rather weakly but parcels of longitudinal cells are bound together with a few cells that run across to the longitudinal axis of the wood. These are called rays.

Hardwoods _____

Vessels _____

The length of the tree _____

The outer layers of wood in a growing tree _____

Softwood _____

Bound _____

Rays _____