

## WOOD AS A MATERIAL 2

### *Lumber Production*

- ① In Canada, **softwood lumber production** is one of our *most important industries*.
- ② Lumber is harvested as a crop year-round for **lumber, fuel, chemicals** and **many other products**.
- ③ The first stages of lumber production begin in the **forests**;
  - ☞ Trees are selected, then felled
  - ☞ Logs are brought to mills
  - ☞ branches are trimmed off
- ④ Once at the mill, the process of **turning the trees into boards** begins;
  - ☞ Bark is removed
  - ☞ slabs ( the outsides of the log) are removed
  - ☞ logs are cut to usable sizes
  - ☞ then the logs are milled to various sizes.
- ⑤ After milling to rough size, the lumber is **carefully stacked** in order *to be dried*. Fresh cut lumber can be more than 50% water by weight.
  - ☞ **Wood must be dried** to become *stable*.
- ⑥ As wood dries, it becomes **stronger, harder, more brittle** and it **changes shape**. It becomes **smaller** and **sometimes warps**. Wood must be **properly dried** before it can be machined. (made into finished projects)
- ⑦ Wood can be **Air-dried** ( left outside protected from the elements ) or **Kiln-dried** ( heated in a large oven )