

# Activity 1



## WHAT ARE PENCILS USED FOR?

**PART I:** Just about everyone in the world has used a pencil for something. What do you use a pencil for? Look at the list of people who use pencils. Can you think of anyone else who uses a pencil? Draw a line from each pencil user to the thing they need pencils for.

**PART IA:** Select one of the pencil users from the list in Part I. Think of the many ways that person uses a pencil on the job. Where does he or she work -- at a desk? Why do you think that person uses a pencil and not a pen or a computer? Write your answers on the back.

### Pencil Users

- (STUDENT)
- (ARTIST)
- (CARPENTER)
- (WAITER/WAITRESS)
- (MAKE-UP PERSON)
- (SPORTS SCOREKEEPER)
- (ARCHITECT)

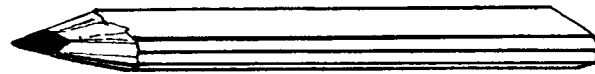
### Pencil Uses

- (EYES)
- (SCORECARD)
- (SKETCH PAD)
- (MATH HOMEWORK)
- (ORDER PAD)
- (BLUEPRINT)
- (WOOD BOARD)

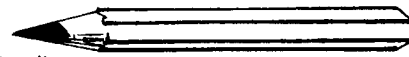
**PART II:** Look at the end of your pencil. Most wood pencils are numbered, and the most common pencil is the No. 2 pencil. The number 2 refers to how hard and black the pencil graphite is. (Most people think pencils are made with lead, but they are actually made with graphite.) Back in the 1800s, pencil manufacturers used letters instead of numbers to describe the graphite. For example, an H pencil was hard, a B pencil was black and an F pencil had a fine point. An HB pencil was hard and black, an HH pencil was very hard and a BB pencil was very black. The hardest pencils of all were HHH pencils. Can you guess what the blackest pencils were called? Eventually, most pencil manufacturers started using numbers to make it easier for people to understand. The HB pencil became the No. 2 pencil, the F pencil became the No. 2 1/2 pencil and the H pencil became the No. 3 pencil. Some pencils used by artists and engineers still use letters to denote hardness.

How many pencils do you think are in your school desk right now? After school today, look through your home and record the number and types of pencils you find. Ask your family members to help you. Take a pencil inventory, by writing down how many of each type of pencil you find. Use the back of this sheet.

Carpenter's Pencil



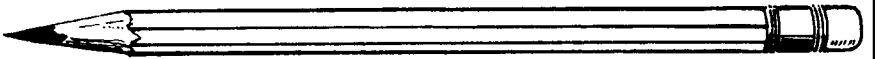
Golfer's Pencil



Make-up Pencil



Student Pencil



Office Pencils

