

# WORDS OF THE DAY

HARDWOOD IS WOOD FROM A DECIDUOUS  
(BROAD-LEAVED) TREE.

SOFTWOOD IS WOOD FROM A CONIFEROUS  
(EVERGREEN) TREE.

\*NOT ONLY DO THESE TREES HAVE DIFFERENT LEAVES, THEY  
ALSO HAVE A FEW OTHER DIFFERENCES.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THEM...

\*SOME EXCEPTIONS, SUCH AS HOLLY, BOXWOOD, AND HOLM OAK

# HARDWOODS

HARDWOOD IS WOOD FROM A DECIDUOUS  
(BROAD-LEAVED) TREE.

\*ALSO KNOWN AS ANGIOSPERMS

(TREES THAT PRODUCE SEEDS WITH SOME SORT OF COVERING. EX. FRUIT, SUCH AS AN APPLE OR A  
HARD SHELL, SUCH AS A ACORN)

\* THESE TREES LOSE THEIR LEAVES ONCE A YEAR

\* TYPICALLY HAVE A SLOWER GROWTH RATE

\*EX. OAK, MAPLE, ASH, WALNUT, MAHOQANY



# SOFTWOODS

SOFTWOOD IS WOOD FROM A CONIFEROUS  
(EVERGREEN) TREE.

\*ALSO KNOWN AS GYMNOSPERM  
(TREES THAT PRODUCE SEEDS WITH NO COVERING. EX. CONES)

\* THESE TREES KEEP THEIR LEAVES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

\* TYPICALLY HAVE A FASTER GROWTH RATE

\*EX. PINE, CEDAR, SPRUCE, FIR, REDWOOD



# MISUNDERSTANDING?

DOES THAT MEAN HARDWOODS ARE ALWAYS  
A HARDER MATERIAL COMPARED TO  
SOFTWOOD?

**NO**, THERE IS AN CONSIDERABLE VARIATION IN  
ACTUAL WOOD HARDNESS IN BOTH GROUPS.

\*SOME HARDWOODS (EX. BALSA) ARE SOFTER THAN MOST SOFTWOODS

\*ON THE OTHER HAND, YEW IS AN EXAMPLE OF A HARD SOFTWOOD

**IN CONCLUSION, THE TERMS DO NOT REFER  
TO THE DENSITY OF THE MATERIAL,  
INSTEAD, THEY REFER TO THE TYPE OF TREE  
THEY CAME FROM.**