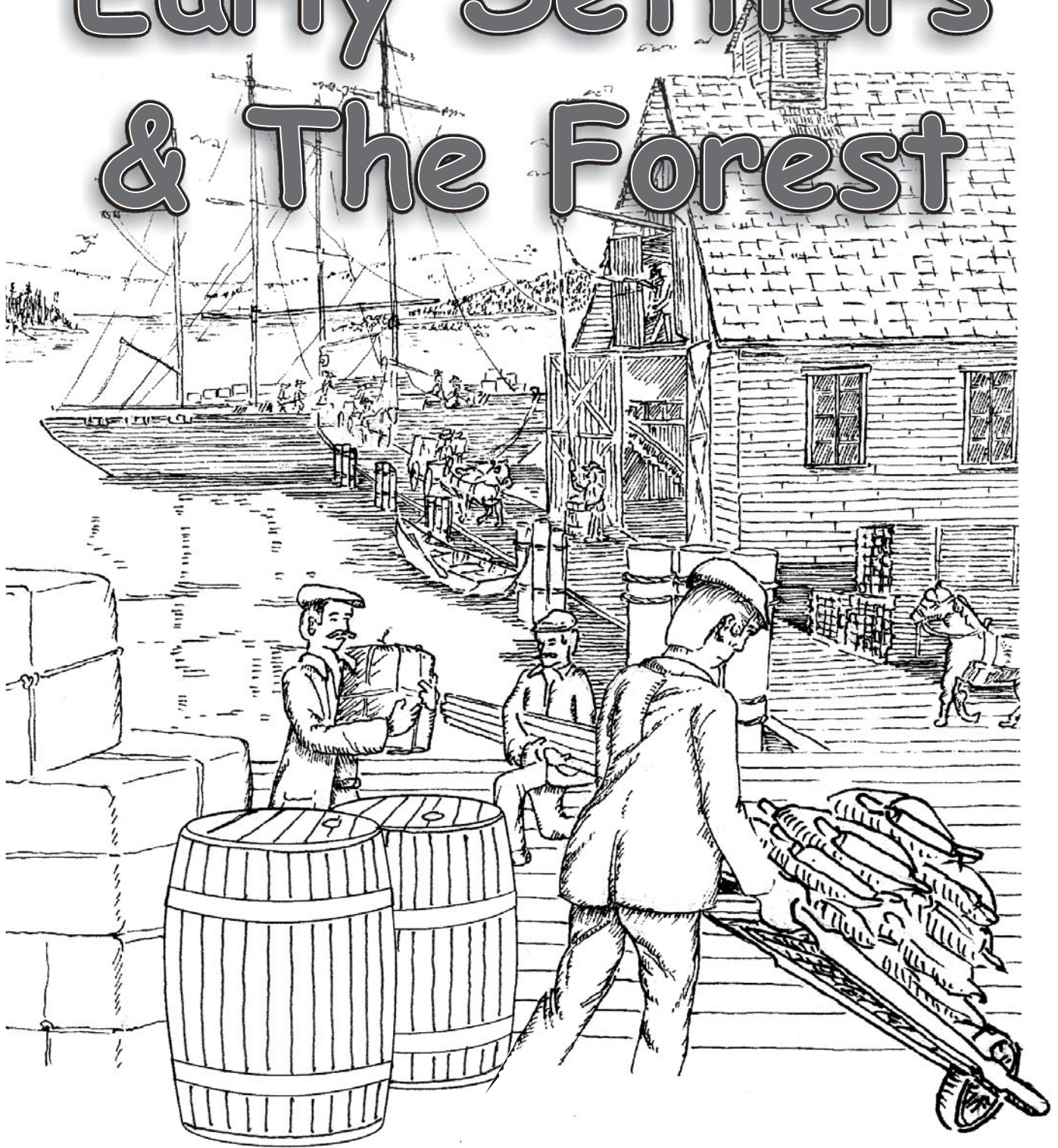
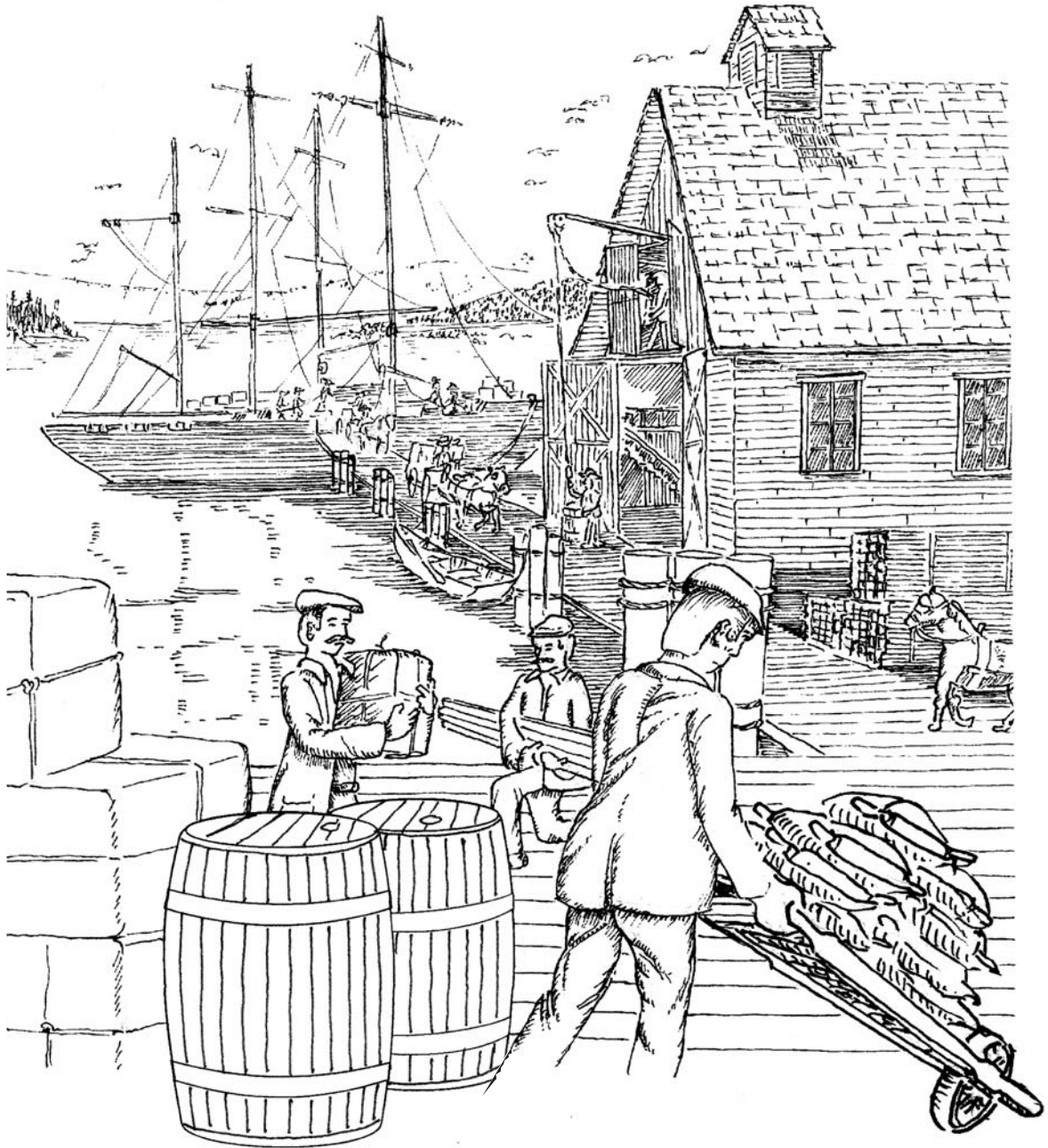


Early Settlers & The Forest



By Debbie Sluggett
Illustrated by Larry Fox

A sailing ship approaches the east coast of what was to become Canada.



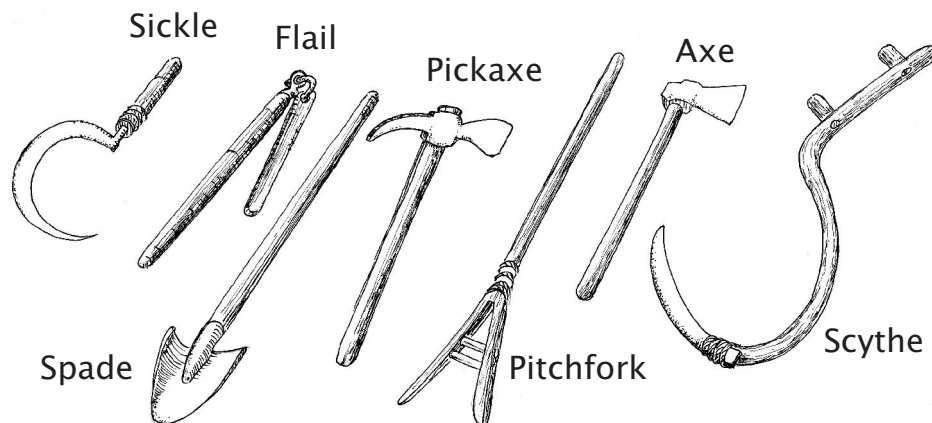
Early explorers to Canada arrived from Europe in sailing ships. They were happy to see vast forests with tall, straight trees because their homelands were quickly losing their forests to towns and farmland. Looking at the picture, why would the explorers need tall, straight trees? What items do you see that are made from wood? (Answer page 10)

After the explorers came the settlers.

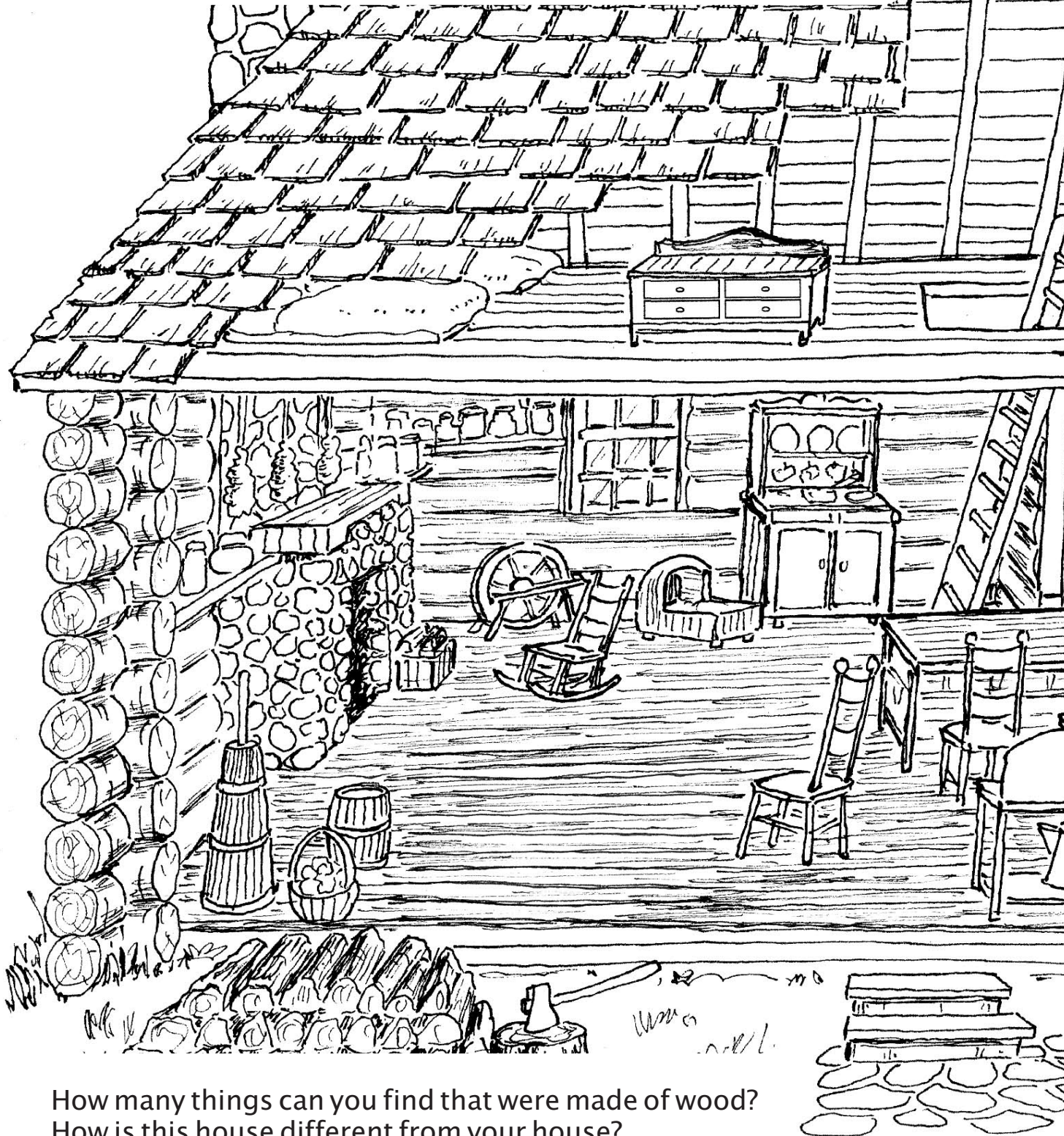


As settlers arrived, land had to be cleared. The wood was used to build houses, fencing, barns, stores and furniture. The cleared land was used to grow food crops and pastures for farm animals. Looking at the picture, how do you think the settlers removed the stumps?

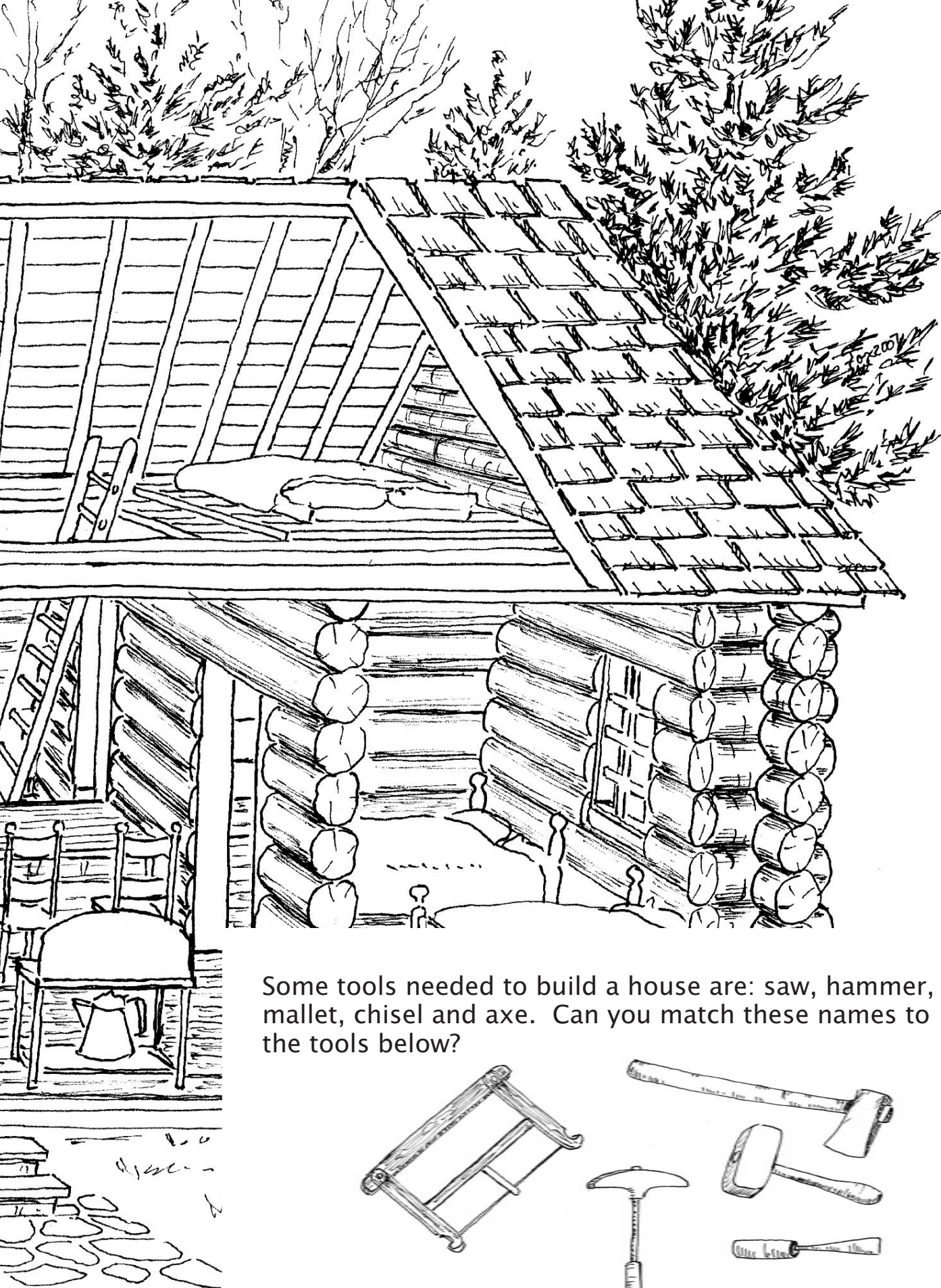
The settlers had to grow enough food to feed themselves and their animals throughout the year. Here are some early farming tools. Do they look like today's tools? What are the handles made of?



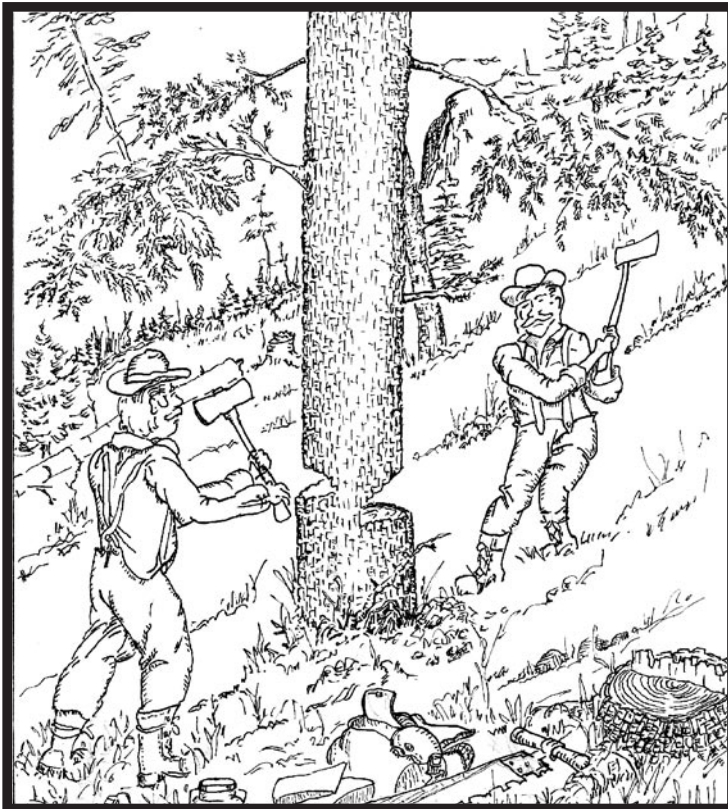
While clearing the land, settlers often built their homes from the logs. The picture shows you some of the outside of a log house as well as the inside.



How many things can you find that were made of wood?
How is this house different from your house?

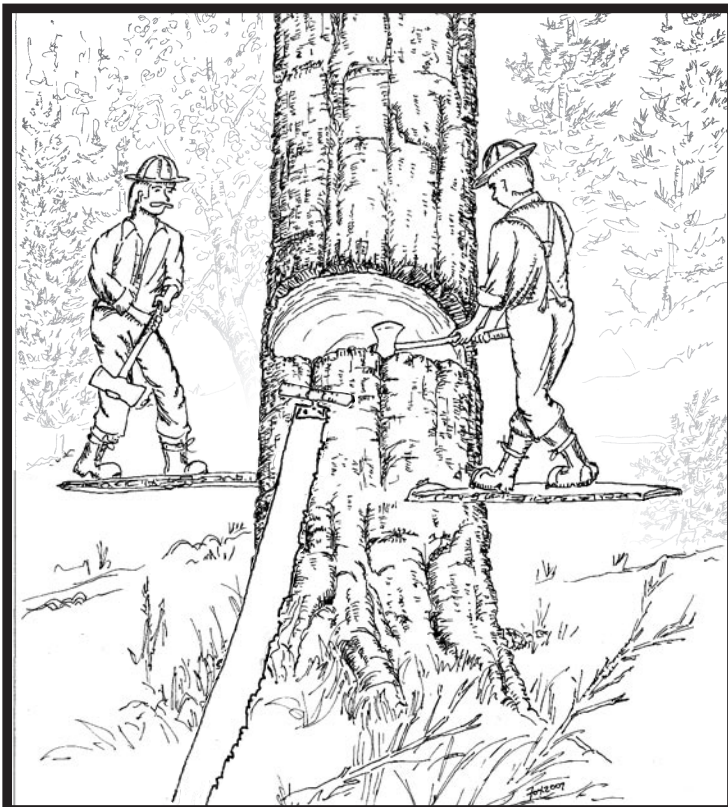


Some tools needed to build a house are: saw, hammer, mallet, chisel and axe. Can you match these names to the tools below?



Smaller trees were cut down by choppers using an axe. Two cuts were made. In the picture, the chopper on the right is making a larger cut which is lower than that of the chopper on the left. Which way will the tree fall?
(Answer page 10)

We no longer call these men choppers, instead we say fallers.

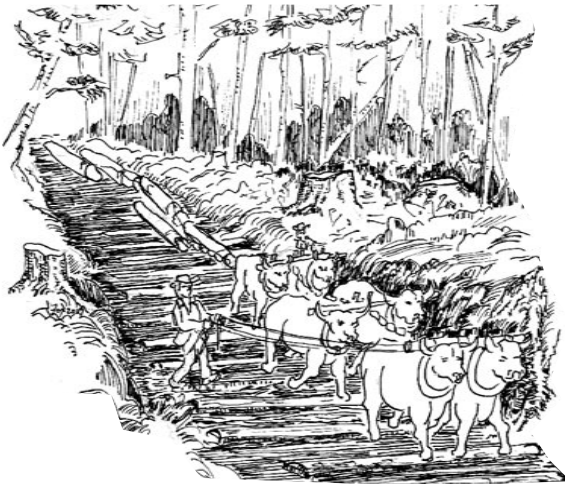


Larger trees, like BC's Cedar or Douglas fir, took much longer to cut down. Men stood on 'springboards' to be above the flare which is the widest part of the tree. Why do you think they did that? (Answer page 10)

They used long-handled double-headed western axes that were designed to cut the larger trees.

Transporting the Logs.

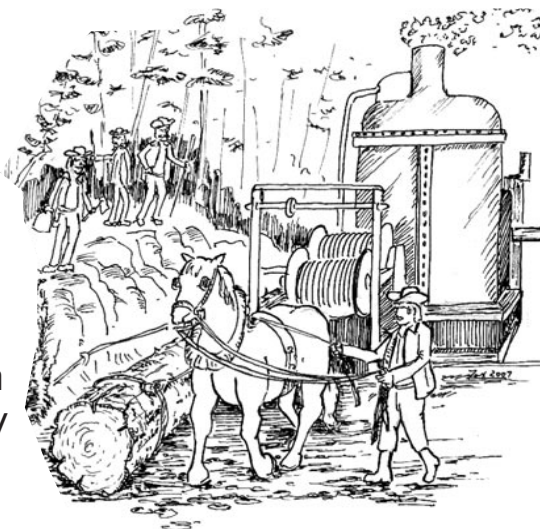
Some logs were sent to Europe. Hewers would square the log off so that it could be easily stacked inside the hold of the ship. If the log was not being exported, then it was left round to be pulled out of the forest by oxen, donkeys or horses.



In the west, a skidroad (corduroy road) made it easier for oxen to pull the logs along. Logs were spaced out along the trail and the spaces filled with dirt. Later steam engines replaced the animals.

The steam donkey was a machine with wire wrapped around a large spool.

Men could pull the wire out, attach it to a log and then have the steam donkey engine pull in the log by winding a wire around the spool.



In the winter, the icy skidroad made pulling the logs easier.

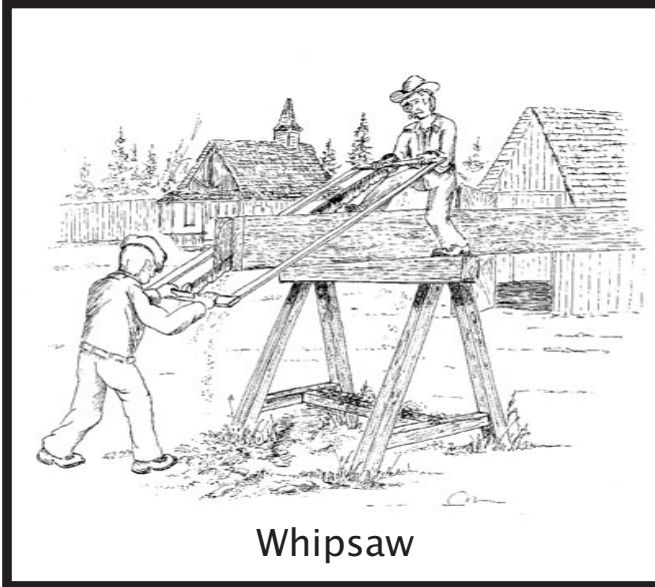


In the spring, logs could be floated down-river to the mill. This was called a River Drive. It could be very dangerous for the men. They wore caulk boots (pronounced cork) and used peaveys to push the logs along. Sometimes, logs would pile up forming a log jam.

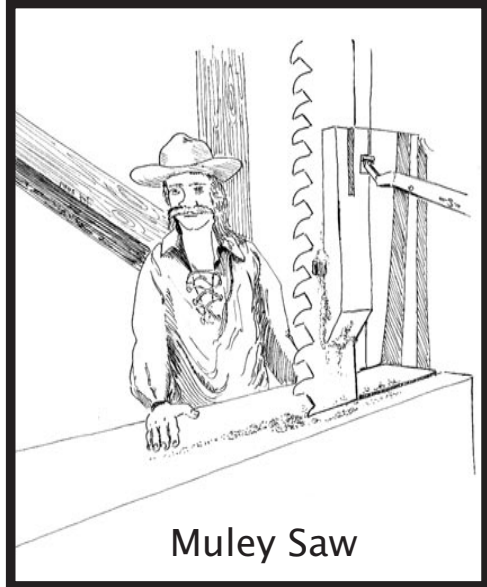


Sawmills.

Before a sawmill was built, men had to cut the logs into thin planks using a whipsaw.

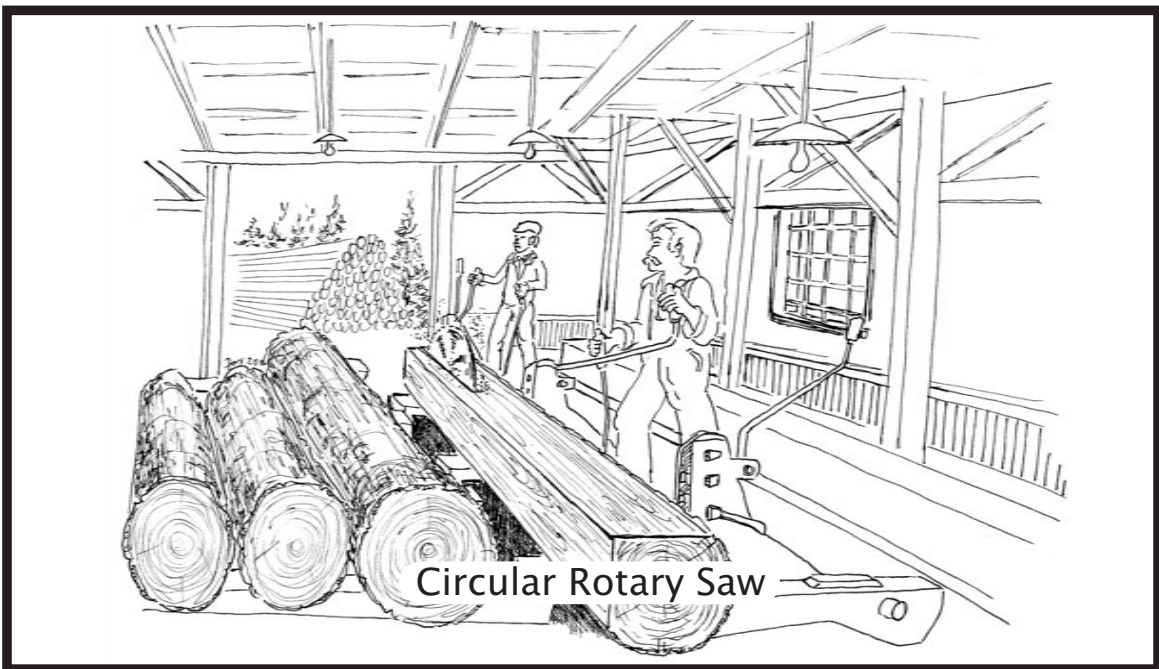


Whipsaw



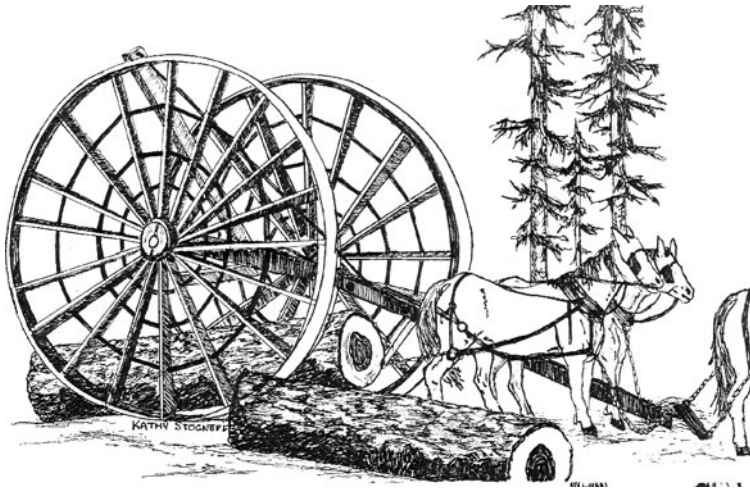
Muley Saw

The muley saw was the first saw used in a sawmill. It could only cut on the down stroke as the blade moved up and down. Later the circular rotary saw made the process much faster. Men pushed a log onto the carriage and then pushed the carriage with the log against the saw.



Circular Rotary Saw

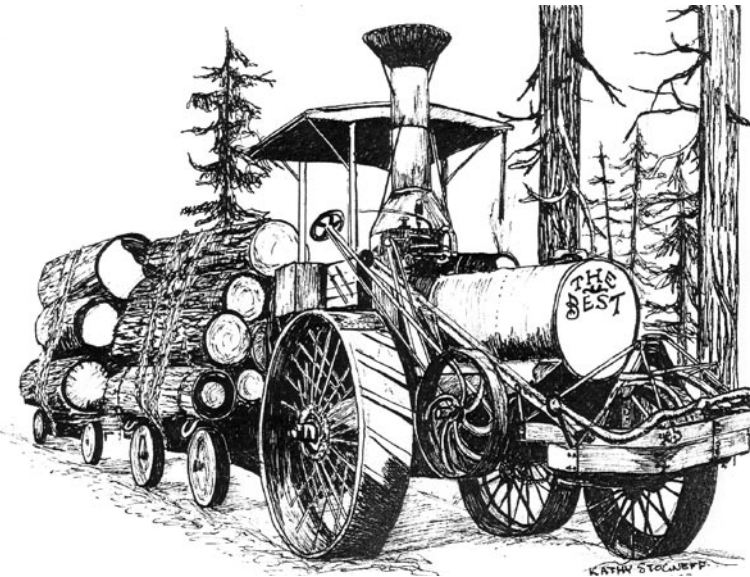
More Early Transportation Methods.



Slip Tongue Wheel

(late 1800's - early 1900's)

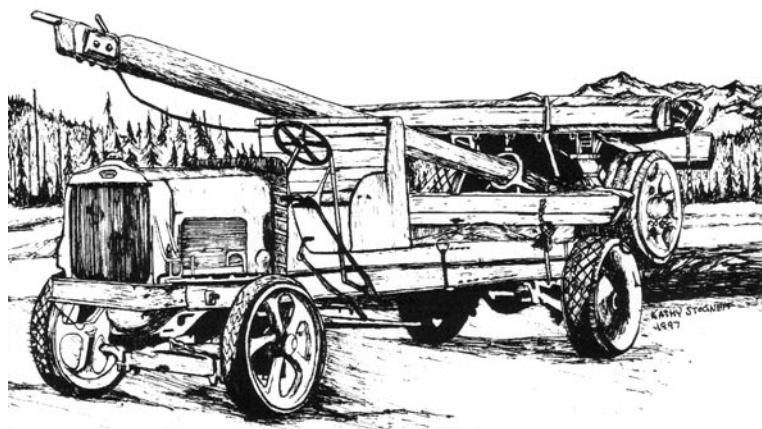
High wheels helped to lift the short logs off the ground for hauling. It took 4 horses — 2 attached to the wheels and 2 to the sliding tongue which operated the lifting rig. When hauling downhill, the tongue pushed back, lowering the logs down to act as a brake.



Steam Tractor

(late 1800's-early 1900's)

Replaced the use of animals in the woods - adapted from farm use.



Four Wheel Drive

Duplex (early 1900's)

Logs were hauled along plank roads with tracks on the side for truck wheels. In the center was a wide trough lower than the wheel tracks where the logs could be dragged along.

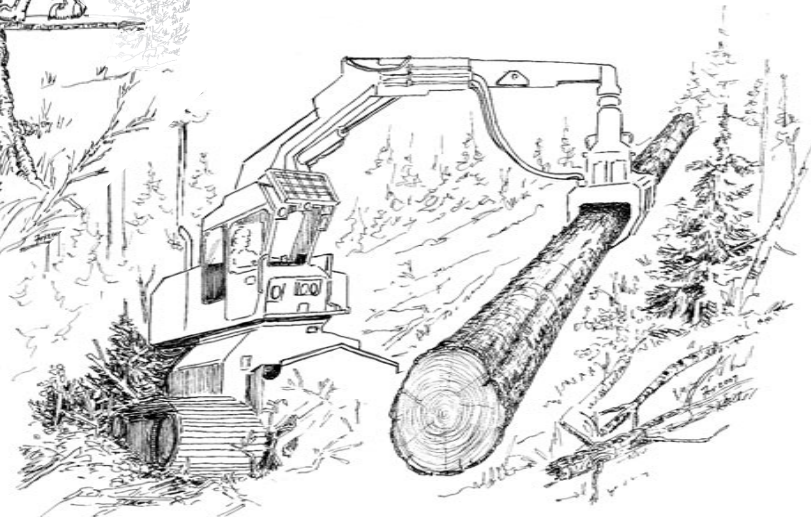
Illustrated by Kathy Stogneff - 1997



Yesterday

and

Today



Answers:

Page 1 - tall straight trees were needed for the ship masts

Page 5 - the tree will fall to the right

Page 5 - cutting through the flare would take longer and then it would have to be cut off later when cutting the log into planks

Definitions:

Caulk boots..... logger's boots with spikes on the bottom

Chopper.....an early logger who cut trees down

Faller today's logger who cuts trees down

Hewera logger who squared timber

Muley Saw..... earliest sawmill saw that cut wood by sawing up and down

Skidroadlogs half-buried in earth over which trees are skidded out of the forest

Steam Donkey..a steam engine that skidded logs out of the forest

Whipsaw..... a two-person saw for cutting planks from a log

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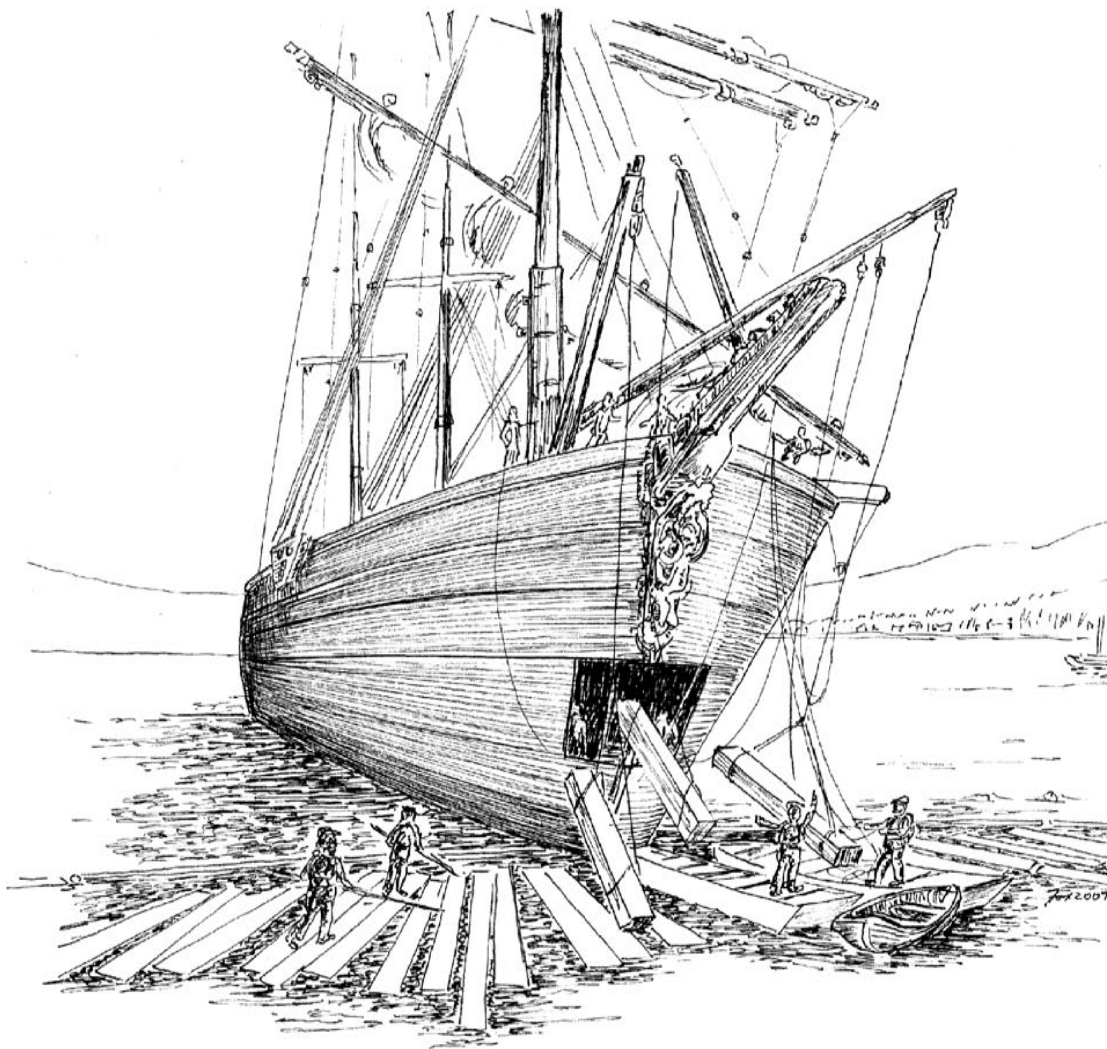
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Wood For The World
exporting square timber