



# LESSON 3: SUSTAINABLE HOMES

## SUBJECT

Sustainable Homes: What is Sustainable Furniture?

## AGE RANGE

15-18

## LESSON PLAN #

3 of 4

## WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE FURNITURE

Sustainable furniture is often referred to as "green furniture" or "eco-friendly furniture". This means it is made in a way that has a negligible impact on the environment - made of local and sustainable materials, that generate less pollution and waste, containing little to no harmful chemicals - making a healthier home with a lighter footprint on mother earth.

## MATERIALS USED IN SUSTAINABLE FURNITURE

### Bamboo:

- Bamboo is a tree like grass which grows much faster than a tree, creating a sustainable material used for furniture.
- It plays a vital role in reducing carbon footprint, absorbing carbon and releasing lots of oxygen into the atmosphere.

### Organic Cotton:

- Organic cotton requires less water than conventional farmed materials, it has a soft texture, making it perfect for bedding.

### Reclaimed Wood:

- This is wood from old buildings or other structures, which could end up in landfill.
- By repurposing this wood for furniture, we can help to combat deforestation and curb waste, providing a strong and reliable product with a rustic aesthetic look.

### Natural Fibers:

- Natural fibers such as jute, hemp and linen, are renewable and biodegradable materials.
- They are typically grown without chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

### Recycled Metal:

- Recycled metals such as aluminum or steel, can be repurposed to reduce the need for extracting new raw materials.
- This uses little to no energy compared to high energy demands for new metal.

### Cork:

- Cork is made from the bark of cork oak trees. It is a renewable resource because the bark can be harvested for a number of years without damaging the trees progression.

## APPLICATION OF SUSTAINABLE FURNITURE OPTIONS

**Residential Buildings:** Sustainable furniture can be used in various rooms of your home. For example, choose from sustainable sofas, chairs, dining tables, eco friendly beds and dressers.

**Office Spaces:** A rising number of offices and businesses are transitioning to eco friendly furniture in their workplace, this includes ergonomic chairs made up of sustainable materials and sustainable desks, tables and seating areas.

**Educational Institutions:** Sustainable furniture can be used in classrooms, libraries and common areas in schools, colleges and universities. Learning areas can be outfitted with sustainable tables, seats and bookcases built from recycled materials.