

FOOTPRINT

Hill House School

Cambian
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Edition #5 2021

Promoting happy, healthy and sustainable living at Hill House and beyond.

BAMBOO IS BETTER



Bamboo is now recognized as an extremely earth-friendly material for a number of different reasons:

More oxygen for the planet ~ Bamboo captures more carbon dioxide and releases 35% more oxygen into the atmosphere compared to a similarly sized stand of hardwood trees.

No chemicals needed ~ Because bamboo is such a naturally prolific plant, it does not require the use of chemicals and fertilizers in order to cultivate it. Although panda bears have taken quite a liking to bamboo, bugs are generally not interested in this giant grass. A stand of bamboo does not require pesticides to keep destructive bugs away. This ensures that chemicals will not find their way into the soil and groundwater as a result of bamboo farming.

It requires less water ~ Bamboo does not require much water to grow. Although bamboo is willing to grow in wetland conditions, it can also be grown in places where other plants would require supplemental watering to survive. Fresh water is a valuable resource on our planet, and bamboo is not a needy plant when it comes to water consumption.

High demand is no problem ~ Some species of bamboo can grow as much as 3 feet per day. While most bamboo plants reach maturity in 3 or 4 years, a hardwood tree can take 30 to 50 years to reach a harvestable age. This speedy grass has even garnered a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the fastest growing plant on earth. Bamboo has a yield 25 times higher than a comparable stand of trees. All the while, this wonder plant produces more oxygen for the atmosphere - the fast growth rate of bamboo equals sustainability.

Better for the soil ~ When bamboo is harvested, each culm is simply cut at ground level. The root system remains in the ground



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and quickly sprouts more bamboo shoots. The root system that remains in the ground between harvestings helps the soil to resist erosion. In some places, bamboo is planted along riverbanks to prevent soil erosion. Bamboo also drops leaves and stems onto the ground where it is growing. This natural litter turns to mulch and acts as a fertilizer.

In the event that a bamboo product is discarded, it is nice to know that items made from bamboo are **100% biodegradable**.

Cedars and Willows are already testing out bamboo toothbrushes from ecoslurps.

ecoslurps

For more information on the ethics of using bamboo products and its sustainability click [here](#)

ONE PLANET LIVING CHAMPION

Presenting November's One Planet Living Champion!



Nic Acosta is encouraging all staff to use eco-friendly pens!

Perfect for use at school, home or in the office, these pens are plastic free, come in recyclable packaging and only cost £1.29 for three from [The Range](#).



Have you found a sustainable product that we should all know about? Have you tried something and not been impressed?

Check out our **GO GREEN** directory on the Hill House School Sharepoint. Feel free to add your suggestions and reviews.

#MAKEONECHANGE

What one change can you make today?