

Lumberjacks : Discovery



The term Lumberjack has been replaced by Logger for professional people who cut down trees in order to harvest lumber. Lumber is just a fancy term for wood that has been cut to be used in construction or the manufacture of paper and furniture. The term Lumberjack is now mostly meant to refer to people who adopt woodcutting as a competitive sport.

Origins of Lumberjacking

While woodcutting and wood-gathering have been a human occupation from time immemorial, lumberjacking as a mass profession started in Scandinavia, Canada, and the northern United States a few hundred years ago.

Lumberjacking was tough, hard work requiring huge amounts of strength and endurance. It was seasonal work not possible when the mountainous regions where the best timber was to be found got snowed out. Lumberjacks had to take the work as it came and had to move into the logger camps when the season started.

It was Scandinavian loggers who formed the bulk of the industry when serious logging on the North American continent started in the US state of Maine. This caused the cultivation of the lumberjack image of tall, blond-haired, very muscular, red-faced giants. Lumberjacks traditionally used axes to cut down trees and a team of two lumberjacks could also use a crosscut saw to saw through the trunk of a tree.

Some of the other skills needed for lumberjacking included high climbing or tree topping where the lumberjack used iron hooks and rope to climb up a tree, cut down its branches and the tree top as he climbed, and attached rigging and pulleys to the tree so that it could be used as a spar. Attaching chokers or steel cables to felled logs in order to roll it down the mountain to a landing area was another set of skills. Sometime, the tree would be transported by water to sawmills and tree rolling became a skill. Lumberjacks would wear spiked boots called caulks or corks to stay on a log when rolling it down river.

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What is a lumberjack ?

What would a lumberjack be called in Tasmania today? _____

What tools and skills would a typical lumberjack use 100 years ago?

FAST FACTS

How wood was once harvested:

Lumberjacks worked in lumber camps and often lived a migratory life, following timber harvesting jobs as they opened. They also had to take a long time to move the logs from place to place, because of low technology. Being a lumberjack was seasonal work. Lumberjacks were exclusively men. They usually lived in bunkhouses or tents. Common equipment included the axe and crosscut saw. Lumberjacks could be found wherever there were vast forests to be harvested and a demand for wood. In the U.S., many lumberjacks were of Scandinavian ancestry, continuing the occupation of their parents and grandparents.

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What do you call a drunken logger?

A rum-berjack.

What does a lumberjack turn into after a sex change?

A lumberjill.

What did the really macho lumberjack eat for breakfast (and lunch and dinner)?

Mancakes!

What does a lumberjack have in common with Sesame Street's Count?

They can both count to tree.

I used to be a lumberjack, but I couldn't cut it.

So they gave me the ax.

What did Tim say when it was so cold all he could remember was his name?

TIM-BRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!

What do you call a place where lumberjacks and animals go to swim?

Fir Beech!

What's a lumberjack's favourite sushi?

The log roll!

What did the lumberjack say about the mathematician who couldn't dance?

"Man, that guy needs to get some logarithm."



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