



Proudly made in the U.S.A.

The Anatomy of a Pencil

How A Pencil Is Made

Anatomy Of A Pencil

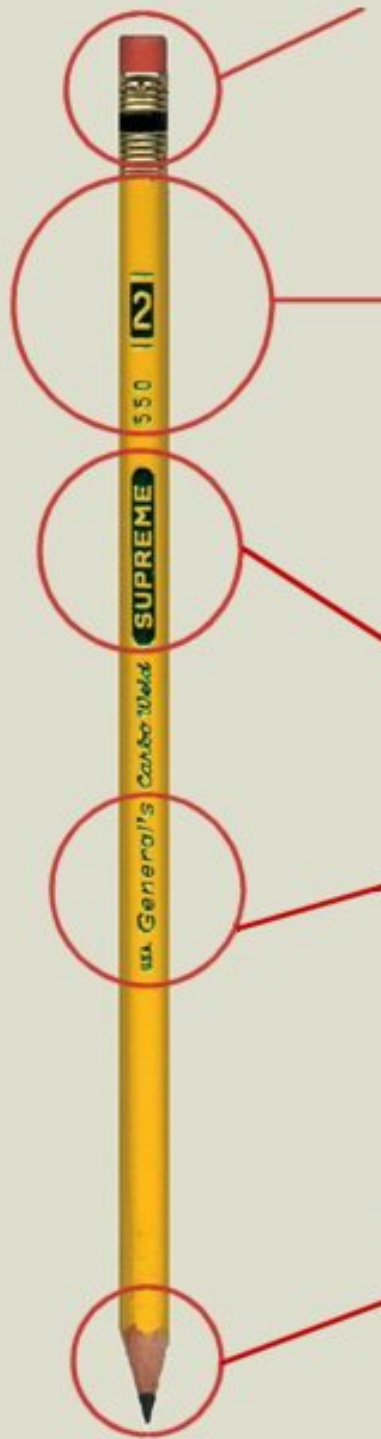
Products

Art Gallery

Contact Us

Home

General Store Buy Online



Bread crumbs were used as erasers until 1770, when the first rubber eraser was made. In 1858, erasers were attached to the ends of pencils for the first time.

The numbers on pencils refer to their grades, or hardness. Higher numbers, such as number 4, mean harder pencils. The harder the pencil, the less graphite that comes off onto the paper, making a lighter line.

"Supreme" is the name of one of General Pencil Company's premium pencils.

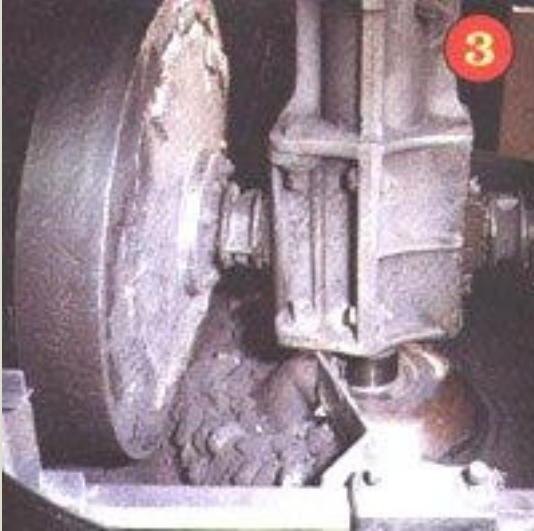
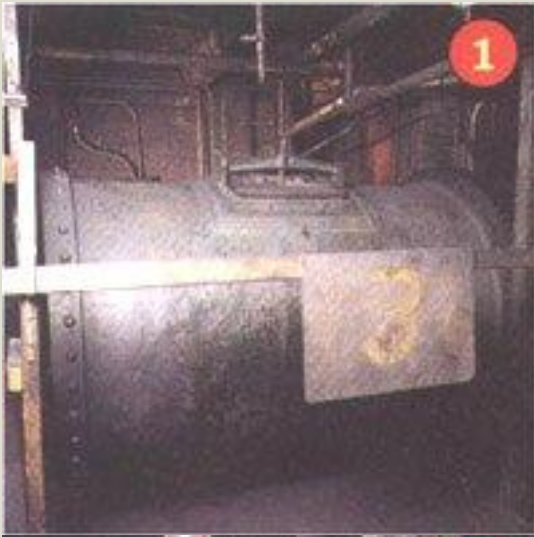
The first known wooden pencil dates back to the mid-1500s. It was a thin rod of wood with a bit of graphite stuck into one end. In the late 1600s, the pencil-making process we still use today was first developed.

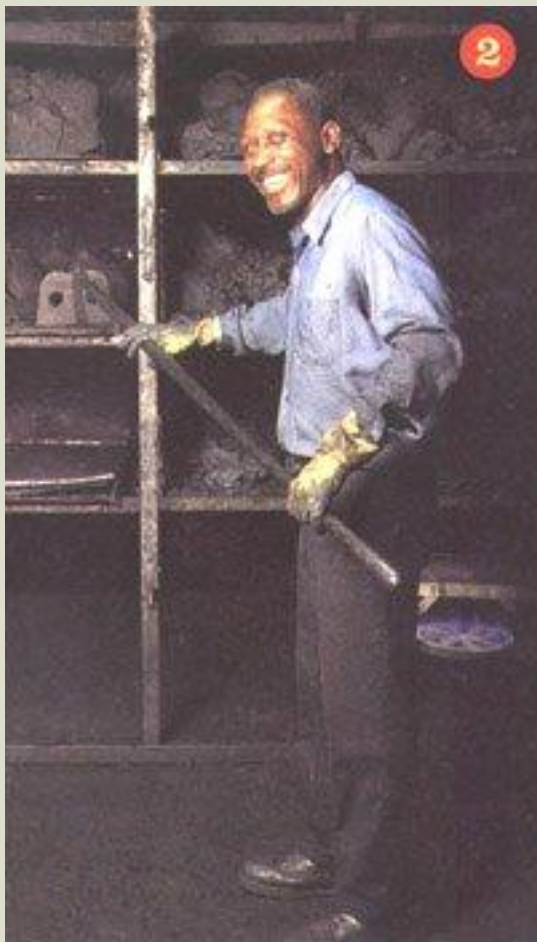
[For browsers less than 4.X click here for free upgrade.](#)

There are about 2.8 billion pencils used in the U.S. every year. The average pencil can draw a line 35 miles long or write about 45,000 words.

**For questions, comments or special orders click here to email us;
info@generalpencil.com**

*This website provided by **FindFAST.Com** a great way to surf the net!
Copyright © 2003 FindFAST.Com*





Move your mouse over pictures for descriptions

[To print this page or for Lower Version Browsers Click Here](#)

Step-by-Step How a Pencil Is Made

For questions, comments or special orders click here to email us;

info@generalpencil.com



Proudly made in the U.S.A.

**How A Pencil
Is Made**

**Anatomy Of
A Pencil**

Products

Art Gallery

Contact Us

Home

**General Store
Buy Online**

Handcrafted in the USA Since 1889

GENERAL PENCIL COMPANY



[For browsers less than 4.X click here for free upgrade.](#)



*This website provided by **FindFAST.Com** a great way to surf the net!*

Copyright © 2003 FindFAST.Com



Handcrafted in the USA Since 1889
GENERAL PENCIL COMPANY



Proudly made in the U.S.A.

Step-by-Step How a Pencil Is Made

How A Pencil
Is Made

Anatomy Of
A Pencil

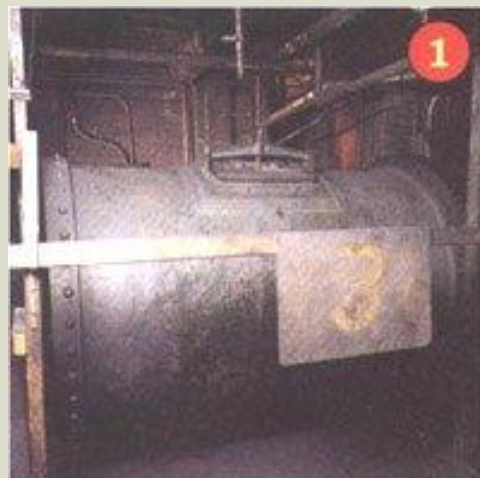
Products

Art Gallery

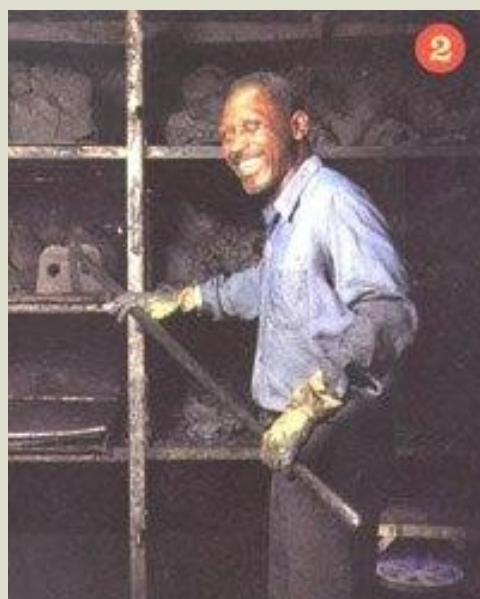
Contact Us

Home

General Store
Buy Online

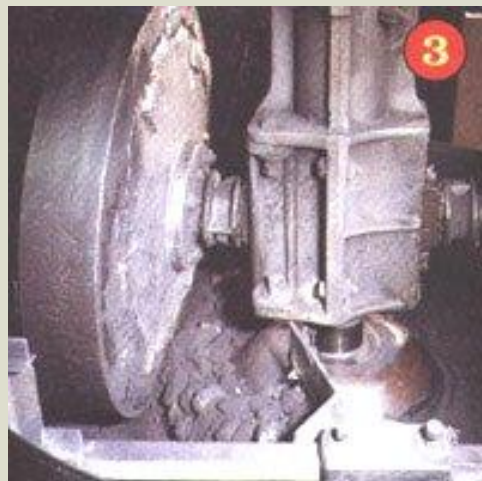


Chunks of graphite (a soft, dark mineral) and clay are placed inside a huge rotating drum. Large rocks inside the drum crush the graphite and clay into a fine powder. Then water is added, and the mixture is blended in the drum for up to three days.



A machine squeezes all the water out of the mixture, leaving behind a gray sludge. Here, a worker puts the sludge in a cabinet where it air-dries and hardens for four days.

[For browsers less than 4.X
click here for free upgrade.](#)



Huge wheels grind the dried sludge into another fine powder, and water is blended in again to make a soft paste.

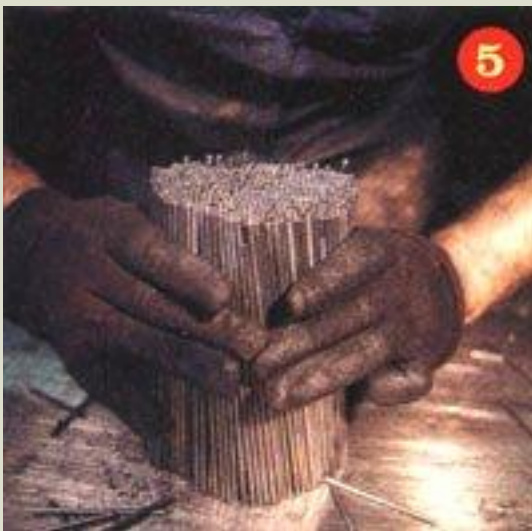


For questions, comments or special orders click here to email us;
info@generalpencil.com

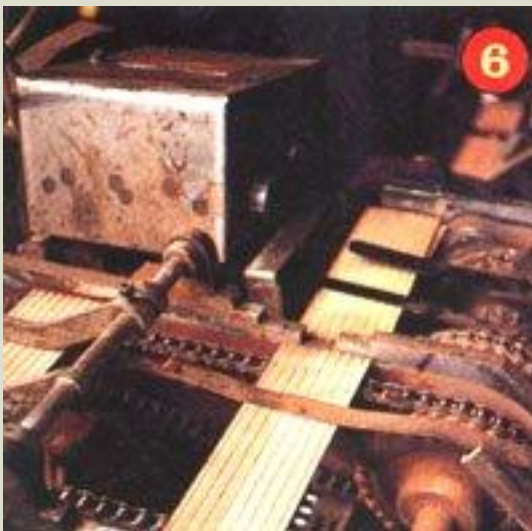
*This website provided by **FindFAST.Com** a great way to surf the net!
Copyright © 2003 FindFAST.Com*



The paste is pushed through a metal tube and comes out in the shape of thin rods. Then the rods are cut into pencil-length pieces, called leads, and sent along a conveyor belt to dry.



After drying, the pencil leads are put into an oven heated to 1,800° F. The intense heat makes the leads smooth and hard, which makes for good writing points.



In another part of the factory, the wood is prepared. Machines cut blocks of cedar into wide slats. Eight shallow grooves are sawed lengthwise into each slat.



A thin coat of glue is applied to the slats, and one pencil lead is placed into each of the eight grooves. Within seconds, another wide grooved slat is glued on top, sandwiching the leads.

For questions, comments or special orders click here to email us;
info@generalpencil.com



Proudly made in the U.S.A.

**How A Pencil
Is Made**

**Anatomy Of
A Pencil**

Products

Art Gallery

Contact Us

Home

General Store
Buy Online

Handcrafted in the USA Since 1889

GENERAL PENCIL COMPANY



[For browsers less than 4.X click here for free upgrade.](#)



*This website provided by **FindFAST.Com** a great way to surf the net!*

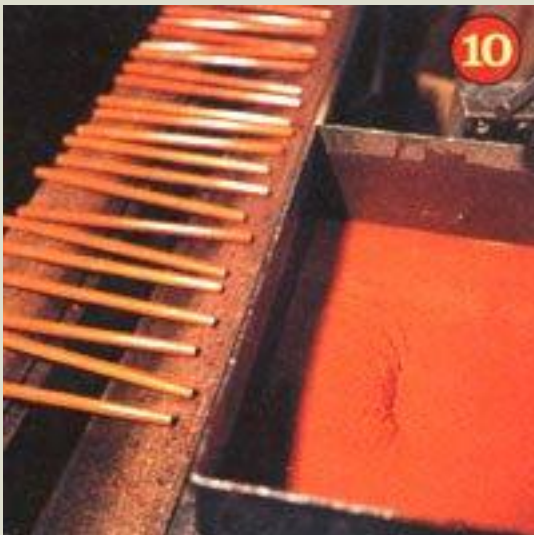
Copyright © 2003 FindFAST.Com



When the glue dries, the slats are fed through a cutting machine. Fast revolving steel blades trim the wood into round or hexagonal shapes, one side at a time.



The same machine cuts apart each slat into eight separate pencils.



The pencils are sanded, and each one receives from five to eight coats of paint.



A heated metal stamp presses the name of the company and a number (such as the number 2) on the pencil in gold foil or in paint. The number indicates how hard the pencil lead is.



A metal band, called a ferrule, is wrapped tightly around one end of the pencil. It holds the eraser, which is being added here. The pencils are then ready to be packaged, sharpened, and used.

For questions, comments or special orders click here to email us;
info@generalpencil.com



Proudly made in the U.S.A.

How A Pencil
Is Made

**Anatomy Of
A Pencil**

Products

Art Gallery

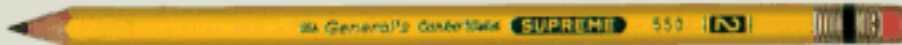
Contact Us

Home

**General Store
Buy Online**

Handcrafted in the USA Since 1889

GENERAL PENCIL COMPANY



[For browsers less than 4.X click here for free upgrade.](#)



*This website provided by **FindFAST.Com** a great way to surf the net!*

Copyright © 2003 FindFAST.Com