



## Bamboo

Bamboo is a group of perennial evergreens in the true grass family *Poaceae*, subfamily *Bambusoideae*, tribe *Bambuseae*. Giant bamboos are the largest members of the grass family.

In bamboo, the internodal regions of the stem are hollow and the vascular bundles in the cross section are scattered throughout the stem instead of in a cylindrical arrangement.

The dicotyledonous woody xylem is also absent. The absence of secondary growth wood causes the stems of monocots, even of palms and large bamboos, to be columnar rather than tapering.

Bamboos are some of the fastest growing plants in the world, as some species are capable of growing 100 cm (39 in) or more per day due to a unique rhizome-dependent system. However, the growth rate is partially dependent on local soil and climatic conditions.

Bamboos are of notable economic and cultural significance in South Asia, South East Asia and East Asia, being used for building materials, as a food source, and as a versatile raw product.



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perennial  
evergreen  
tribe  
internodal  
vascular  
scatter  
cylindrical  
dicotyledonous  
xylem  
monocots  
columnar  
tapering  
rhizome  
partially  
significance  
versatile  
raw



**A** Write answers to the following questions:

1. Why do you think this text was written?
2. What are the main ideas or areas covered?
3. Which two paragraphs focus on the structure and appearance of bamboo?
4. Why is bamboo important to parts of Asia?

**B** Translate these words and define them in English:

1. perennial

2. vascular

3. tapering

4. versatile

**C** In your opinion, how might bamboo be important for conservation?

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# Conservation

