

Name: _____

Making Peace with Dandelions



By Liana Mahoney

For years, humans have waged war with the dandelion. Most people consider dandelions pesky weeds, and will go to great lengths to get rid of them. They pluck them from their gardens. They pull them up by the roots, or resort to killing the plants with chemicals. But our war

... sap is super sticky, and amazingly, is a natural source of rubber. Around 30,000 different products are made from rubber today, including tires, soda drink bottle tops, tubing, and gloves. Most of these products are made from rubber that comes from the rubber tree. But there are problems with these products. Some



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flowers also attract ladybugs. Ladybugs are good to have in gardens because they feast on small insect pests. Despite its useful leaves, roots, and flowers, however, most people still think of the dandelion as a simple weed. It's the sap, though, that just might change their minds.

If you've ever picked a dandelion, you've probably noticed the milky sap that oozes from the stem. Dandelion

... rubber trees are not likely to be allergic to dandelion rubber. Still, scientists have some questions they need to answer before we can make dandelions our main source of rubber. Some scientists believe that in less than five years, we will have those answers and will finally end the war with this so-called weed. When we make peace with the dandelion, at long last, we'll be planting it, instead of pulling it!



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1. Does the author have a positive or negative view of dandelions? Explain your answer.



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3. According to the article, how might dandelion rubber be better than rubber from rubber trees?

4. Tell whether each statement is a fact or an opinion. Write **F** or **O** on the line next to each sentence.

- _____ Some people pluck dandelions from their lawns.
- _____ Dandelions make a great addition to any lawn.
- _____ Dandelions are tasty.
- _____ Ladybugs eat small garden pests.

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