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latex

Latex is the milky substance produced by many plants when they are cut. In the case of the rubber tree, this liquid contains the particles used to manufacture natural rubber. Long viewed as a botanical curiosity, latex has gradually become a strategic raw material. Its extraction relies on a simple yet precise technique: making a controlled incision to collect the liquid without causing lasting damage to the tree. This process, known as tapping, requires experience and consistency. Latex illustrates a common pattern in the history of technology: a natural material acquires new meanings as scientific knowledge advances. Even today, it remains at the heart of many industrial supply chains. Studying it helps connect the plant world to that of materials. Bridging the gap between the rainforest and the chemistry lab, latex reminds us that even the most modern objects often retain deeply biological roots.