

TREES GLORIOUS TREES!



Trees are some of the oldest and longest living plants on the planet. They are very important in keeping our environment healthy. They absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen giving us clean healthy air to breathe. They feed the soil with their decaying leaf litter and help keep our water sources clean.

It's difficult to age a tree when it's still alive. You can guess the age by the width of the trunk (different trees grow at different speeds). Each year a tree produces a new ring of growth, making the trunk grow wider and wider. If you count the annual rings in a felled tree trunk, you can tell its age.



Find the native Irish trees in Kilkenny Castle Park in the word search below:

BIRCH

OAK

WILLOW

ASH

HAWTHORN

YEW

ROWAN

SCOTS PINE

N	R	O	W	A	N	D	Q	V	A	U	S
W	Q	L	S	B	H	X	I	B	G	O	W
B	G	D	H	E	C	N	K	W	Z	F	I
I	S	C	O	T	S	P	I	N	E	O	L
R	J	R	Y	S	W	F	M	H	W	A	L
C	Z	T	E	B	A	S	H	K	M	K	O
H	U	V	W	I	R	B	W	D	R	C	W
I	S	H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N	F	D

Did you know.....?



A



B




C

Ogham, an early form of writing in Ireland (dating back to the 4th century AD!), has been found carved into standing stones. The alphabet had twenty letters, each one representing a sound in the Early Irish Language. Letters such as A (*Ailm*) Scots Pine, B (*Beith*) Birch and C (*Coll*) Hazel, were based on trees.

Trees were very important in Ancient Ireland. Many placenames in Ireland come from the Irish words for trees and woods. Derry and Kildare come from *Dair*, (Oak); Mayo comes from *Eo*, (Yew) and the barony of Crannagh in Co. Kilkenny comes from *Crann*, (tree).

The oldest living tree in Ireland, may be the Silken Thomas Yew tree, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, at around 800 years old!

Think about your favourite tree. What do you like about it? Draw it in the box below!



Fill in the gaps with the words below!

FOOD

ROOTS

BIODIVERSITY

TRUNK

BARK

EVERGREEN

Trees that lose their leaves in autumn are called deciduous (oak, ash) and trees that keep their leaves all year are called _____ (holly, yew).

Trees provide food and shelter for mammals, birds and insects and encourage _____.

The _____ is the strongest part of the tree and it produces and supports the branches.

The green leaves produce _____ for the tree using sunlight. This is called photosynthesis.

A tree gets water from the ground through its _____.

The trunk of the tree is covered in _____, which helps protect it from the environment and disease.

A person who loves trees and woodlands is called a nemophilist. Are you one?