

CELEBRATE NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2024



OPW



When humans first arrived in Ireland about 10,000 years ago, the island would have been mainly covered in trees. Today Ireland only has about 11% forest cover and only about 2% of that is native woodland. Unfortunately Ireland is one of the most deforested countries in Europe. Many organisations in Ireland promote the importance and planting of trees. This reforestation process is a mix of both broadleaves and conifers. So hopefully in the years to come, Ireland will be covered again in thousands of beautiful trees!

Woodlands are comprised of taller trees (oak, ash, Scot's pine) which form the canopy; smaller trees (holly, hazel, hawthorn) form the understory and below that is the shrub layer of plants (bramble, dog rose and ivy). Woodlands can exist in rural and urban areas. They are havens for biodiversity providing shelter and food for many other plants, birds, mammals and insects. They can also create a cool, dark environment which supports mosses, ferns and lichens.



The Amazon rainforest in South America, is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It covers over 5.5 million square kilometres and spans across 9 different countries!

Fill in the gaps with the words below....

SMALLER

NATIVE

OXYGEN

PLACENAMES

APRIL

BEEYLES

- ❖ Trees produce most of the world's _____, which is essential for life.
- ❖ Many _____ in Ireland, come from Irish words for trees, e.g. Kildare (Dair /Oak).
- ❖ Ash, oak, willow, rowan, birch and hazel are all trees that are _____ to Ireland.
- ❖ Decaying wood and deadwood in wooded areas support fungi and a variety of _____.
- ❖ Woodland is generally _____ than a forest, and has fewer trees per square meter.
- ❖ Bluebells are found growing on woodland floors in _____ and May.



See if you can find these trees on your walk around the Castle Park!



Find these words in the box below.....

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| WATER | SOIL | LEAF | FLOWER |
| TRUNK | BRANCH | FRUIT | AIR |

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

	www.treecouncil.ie	<i>For lots of information on trees!</i>	
	www.kilkennycastle.ie	<i>For tree trails in the Castle Park!</i>	