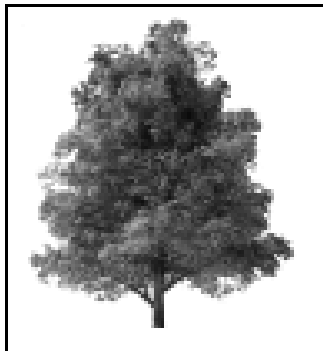


NATIVE TREES

Trees are said to be 'native' if they grow in this country naturally without being brought here by human beings.



ALDER

Height: up to 20 metres.

Life span: up to 60 years.

Appearance: bark is dark, cracked and often covered in lichen. Young twigs are sticky. Leaves are leathery, dark green and rounded at the tip.

Flowers: are called catkins. Male catkins are 2 – 6 cm long and yellow. Female catkins are green and oval. They are pollinated by the wind and produce cone-shaped fruits in winter. Seeds are dispersed by the wind and water.

Location: trees prefer damp conditions, such as near rivers, ponds and lakes.

Special notes: leaves were used to make the green dye for the clothes of outlaws, such as Robin Hood. People used to believe the myth that the dye was also used to colour the clothes of fairies.



BEECH

Height: more than 40 metres.

Life span: 100s of years.

Appearance: bark is smooth and grey. Leaves are lime green, growing darker through the year. They are pointed with a wavy edge. They are often eaten by the caterpillars of moths.

Flowers: catkins are pollinated by the wind and produce nuts (called beechmast), eaten by mice, voles, squirrels and birds.

Location: dry, well-drained soil. Trees can be damaged by frost.

Special notes: Celts used boiled beech leaves to treat skin problems. Nowadays, beech wood is used a lot to make furniture, sports equipment, the handles of tools and for fuel.

1. Which tree can be 40 metres tall?



2. Which tree has sticky twigs?

3. Which tree has smooth, grey bark and pointed leaves?

4. The beech tree provides food for at least five different creatures. What are they?

5. If you wanted clothes that camouflaged you in the woods, what would you use?

6. Beech is a useful type of wood for making things. Name three things.

7. You might not find alder and beech trees in the same areas. Why might that be?
