



# British Trees



## Ash



Usually, Ash trees grow in woods. Older trees are often also spotted in parks and fields. An ash tree's height can reach up to 35 metres and its bark's appearance can have cracks in it. They can be grey or a pale-brown colour and have bright green leaves. Animals that can **thrive** near ash trees are owls and dormice. Ash trees can live to be around 200 years old.



There are lots of different types of trees that appear throughout Britain. They have many features that make them easy to identify!

## Oak



Across England, the two main types of oak tree are the English oak and the Sessile oak. The texture of their bark is rough. The leaves feel smooth and have a rounded edge. Oak trees can grow up to 40 metres tall and have an impressive lifespan of 1000 years. The wood from an oak tree is useful and is often used to help build ships.

### Did You Know...?

A tree called Major Oak is one of the largest and oldest oak trees in the UK. Its **canopy** is around 28 metres wide.



## Lime



## Alder

Alder trees mainly grow in wet conditions and can be spotted near streams, rivers and lakes. They can grow to about 25 to 28 metres tall and live to be around 60 years old. The bark is rough and grey and they grow berries that are dangerous if eaten. Their flowers look similar to a pine cone!

There are three types of lime trees in Britain. They are short-leaved, long-leaved and common lime trees. Their tree trunk is grey and they grow to be about 40 metres tall. Lime trees are typically found growing in parks and on streets. Bees can often appear around a lime tree's flowers due to their sweet smell.

## Did You Know...?

Lime trees have distinctive heart-shaped leaves.

## Sycamore

Sycamore trees did not used to grow in England. It is thought that the Romans could have transported them over when they invaded Britain. However, this is not known for certain. Now, they naturally grow in Britain and reach up to 35 metres in height. They are most likely known for their wing-shaped seeds and can live to around 400 years old.

## Glossary

**canopy:** A layer of overlapping leaves and branches of a tree.

**thrive:** To have grown and continue to grow successfully.

# Questions

1. Which of the following is a type of oak tree? Tick one.

- English
- Welsh
- Scottish
- Irish

2. Draw **four** lines and match each tree to its lifespan.

alder

sycamore

oak

ash

1000 years

60 years

400 years

200 years

3. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests how big Major Oak is.

*Major Oak is one of the largest and oldest oak trees in the UK.*

4. Which animal can be found near an ash tree? Tick one.

- bee
- butterfly
- owl
- squirrel

5. Look at the section called **Alder**. Find and copy one word that means an alder tree's flowers look like pine cones.

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6. Fill in the missing words.

Now, they \_\_\_\_\_ grow in Britain and reach up to 35 metres in  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

7. What have you learnt about British trees that you didn't know before? Explain your answer.

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