



British Trees

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

Ash



Young ash trees can be found in the woods and grow to around 35 metres tall. Surprisingly, older ash trees are often shorter in comparison to younger trees and also commonly appear in parks and fields. Ash trees usually have a cracked grey or pale-brown coloured bark with bright green leaves. Different creatures can be spotted around an ash tree, including woodpeckers, owls and dormice. They can live for around 200 years or possibly longer!



Oak

In Britain, there is the English oak and the Sessile oak. The bark on an oak tree is rough and the leaves feel smooth while also having a rounded edge. Oak trees can grow up to about 40 metres in height. Interestingly, they can also live to be about 1000 years old. The wood from an oak tree can be used for building homes and ships.

Did You Know...?

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



Lime

There are three types of lime trees in Britain, which are called short-leaved, long-leaved and common lime trees. Lime tree leaves have a distinctive heart shape and their bark is grey. They grow to around 40 metres in height. Lime trees commonly grow on streets and in parks. Bees can often appear around a lime tree's flowers due to the sweet smells they emit.



Alder

Alder trees usually grow best near water and can be found near streams, rivers and lakes. They grow to about 25 to 28 metres in height and live to be around 60 years old. The bark of an alder tree is rough and grey. They grow berries that are dangerous when eaten. Interestingly, the tree's flowers look similar to a pine cone!

Beech

Beech trees can be easily identified in a woodland area because their shadow makes it hard for things to grow beneath them. They have shiny green leaves and the bark is smooth and grey. Beech trees can grow up to about 40 metres tall and live to be around 400 years old.

Surprisingly, sycamore trees are not **native** to the UK. It is thought that the Romans could have transported them to Britain when they invaded although this is not known for certain. Now growing successfully in Britain, they can reach up to approximately 35 metres in height. They are most likely known for their wing-shaped seeds. Similar to beech trees, they also live to around 400 years old.

Glossary

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

native: To exist naturally in one place.

Questions

1. Which tree is described to have heart-shaped leaves? Tick one.

- beech
- oak
- lime
- sycamore

2. Draw **four** lines and match each tree to the correct description of its bark.

lime

smooth grey

alder

cracked grey or
pale brown

beech

grey

ash

rough and grey

3. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests that the height of the tree is an estimate.

Now growing successfully in Britain, they can reach up to approximately 35 metres in height.

4. Which tree is described as **not** being native to the UK? Tick one.

- oak
- sycamore
- alder
- ash

5. Look at the section called **Oak**. Fill in the missing word.

The bark on an oak tree is _____ and the leaves feel smooth while also having a _____ edge.

6. What is the name of the tree that is thought to be one of the largest and oldest in the UK?

7. Which tree would be the best to grow in a park? Explain your answer.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about alder trees in 40 words or fewer.
