

# The Life Cycle of the Mighty Oak Tree

## From the Little Acorn

The fruit of the oak tree is called an acorn.  
Inside the acorn is a seed.  
Acorns fall from the tree in autumn.  
Only a few will grow into a new tree.



## A Shoot Appears

First, the roots grow down into the soil.  
The roots take up water and help the new tree to stand firm.  
Then, a shoot begins to grow above the ground.  
The shoot grows small green leaves.



## A Young Sapling

The shoot grows very slowly.  
It turns into a young tree called a sapling.  
The rain, sun and soil help it to grow.

## The Mighty Oak

It takes many years for the sapling to become an adult tree.  
After 20 years, the oak tree grows its own acorns.  
The acorns then fall to the ground.  
The life cycle starts again!



# Questions

- What is the fruit of an oak tree called? Circle one.  
an apple      an acorn      a conker
- What starts to grow from the acorn seed first? Circle one.  
roots      acorns      branches
- Can you circle what a young tree is called?  
a stem      an oak tree      a sapling
- Circle the correct word to complete this sentence:  
After 20 years, the oak tree will grow its own \_\_\_\_\_.  
acorns      leaves      roots
- Can you number the boxes 1–5 in the order that the oak tree grows? The first one has been done for you.

The shoot grows into a sapling.	
The acorn falls from the tree.	<b>1</b>
The sapling grows into a large tree.	
The oak tree grows its own acorns.	
The acorn grows roots and a shoot.	

# Answers

1. What is the fruit of an oak tree called? Circle one.

an apple

**an acorn**

a conker

2. What starts to grow from the acorn seed first? Circle one.

**roots**

acorns

branches

3. Can you circle what a young tree is called?

a stem

an oak tree

**a sapling**

4. Circle the correct word to complete this sentence:

After 20 years, the oak tree will grow its own \_\_\_\_\_.

**acorns**

leaves

roots

5. Can you number the boxes 1-5 in the order that the oak tree grows? The first one has been done for you.

The shoot grows into a sapling.	<b>3</b>
The acorn falls from the tree.	<b>1</b>
The sapling grows into a large tree.	<b>4</b>
The oak tree grows its own acorns.	<b>5</b>
The acorn grows roots and a shoot.	<b>2</b>

# The Life Cycle of the Mighty Oak Tree

Oak trees are the most common type of tree found in the United Kingdom. But how do they grow? Let's take a look at the life cycle of an oak tree.

## From the Little Acorn

The fruit of the oak tree is called an acorn. Inside each acorn is one seed that could grow into a tree. Acorns fall from the oak tree during autumn. Most acorns will not grow into an oak tree because they get eaten by animals. Only a few acorns will grow into a new tree.



## A Shoot Appears

When a seed starts to grow, it starts by sending roots down into the ground. The roots take up water and help the new tree to stand firm. Next, a tiny stem with small green leaves starts to grow above the ground. This is called a shoot.



## A Young Sapling

The shoot begins to grow taller as it gets warmth from the sun and water through its roots. The shoot slowly grows into a young tree called a sapling.



## The Mighty Oak

It takes many years for the oak tree to reach its full size. After 20 years, the oak tree grows its own acorns. The acorns then fall to the ground. For some lucky acorns, the life cycle starts all over again!



# Questions

1. What is the most common type of tree in the UK? Circle one.

apple tree

oak tree

horse chestnut tree

2. When leaves and a stem first start to appear from an acorn, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

Circle one.

shoot

stalk

branch

3. What do the roots help the tree to do?

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4. Choose the correct word to complete this sentence:

The shoot slowly grows into a young tree called a \_\_\_\_\_.

stem

shoot

sapling

5. Can you match up the boxes to complete these sentences?

The shoot begins to grow as it gets

to reach its full size.

It will take many years for the oak tree

because they get eaten by animals.

Most acorns will not grow into an oak tree

warmth from the sun and water through the roots.

# Answers

1. What is the most common type of tree in the UK? Circle one.

apple tree

**oak tree**

horse chestnut tree

2. When leaves and a stem first start to appear from an acorn, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

Circle one.

**shoot**

stalk

branch

3. What do the roots help the tree to do?

**The roots take up water and help the new tree to stand firm.**

4. Choose the correct word to complete this sentence:

The shoot slowly grows into a young tree called a \_\_\_\_\_.

stem

shoot

**sapling**

5. Can you match up the boxes to complete these sentences?

The shoot begins to grow as it gets

to reach its full size.

It will take many years for the oak tree

because they get eaten by animals.

Most acorns will not grow into an oak tree

warmth from the sun and water through the roots.

# The Life Cycle of the Mighty Oak Tree

Oak trees are the most common type of tree found in the United Kingdom. There are different species of oak, but the English oak is the most well-known in the UK.

Every mighty oak starts out as a tiny seed. Let's take a look at the life cycle of an oak tree.

## From the Little Acorn

The fruit of the oak tree is called an acorn. Inside each acorn is one seed that could potentially grow into a tree.

Some oak trees can produce around 2000 acorns each year!

Acorns fall from the oak tree during autumn. Many acorns are eaten by animals and most do not grow into trees. However, some acorn seeds will germinate (begin to grow) in the spring and a new tree starts to form.



## A Shoot Appears

Once a seed starts to grow, it sends roots down into the ground. The roots take up water, as well as helping the new tree to stand firm.

The first part of the tree to appear above the ground is a tiny shoot with a thin stem and small green leaves.



## A Young Sapling

The shoot begins to grow taller. The green leaves get warmth and energy from the sun and the roots provide the tree with water and nutrients from the soil. The shoot will continue to grow slowly into a young tree called a sapling. Some of these saplings will continue into adulthood.



## The Mighty Oak

It takes many years for the oak to grow and become a full-sized adult tree. After 20 years, the oak tree will begin to produce its own acorns. The acorns will then fall to the ground. For some lucky acorns, the life cycle starts all over again!



## Did you know?

A full-sized oak tree can grow up to 45 metres high. An oak tree can live for hundreds of years.

# Questions

1. What word is used to describe a seed beginning to grow?

seed

germinate

roots

2. What does the word 'sapling' mean?

an adult tree

a large tree

a young tree

3. Complete this sentence:

The roots take up water and help the new tree to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. How long does it take before an oak tree starts to produce its own acorns?

Tick one.

<input type="checkbox"/>	10 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 month
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 years

5. Why doesn't every acorn grow into a tree?

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Write down an interesting fact that you have found out about oak trees.

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# Answers

1. What word is used to describe a seed beginning to grow?

seed

germinate

roots

2. What does the word 'sapling' mean?

an adult tree

a large tree

a young tree

3. Complete this sentence:

The roots take up water and help the new tree to **stand firm**.

4. How long does it take before an oak tree starts to produce its own acorns?

Tick one.

	10 years
	1 month
✓	20 years

5. Why doesn't every acorn grow into a tree?

**Most acorns will not grow into an oak tree because they get eaten by animals.**

6. Write down an interesting fact that you have found out about oak trees.

**Various answers from the text.**