

Life Cycle of an Oak Tree

Acorn

The fruit of an oak tree is called an 'acorn'.

Inside the acorn is a seed.

Acorns fall from the tree in autumn.



Sprout

First, a root grows down into the soil.

The root takes up water and helps the seed to stay in place.

Next, the sprout begins to grow a shoot.



Seedling

The shoot begins to grow up through the ground.

It grows small green leaves.

The rain, sunlight and soil help the seedling to grow.



Sapling

A young tree is called a 'sapling'.

A sapling has a thin bendy trunk.

It doesn't grow flowers or acorns.



Oak Tree

An oak tree sapling becomes an adult tree when it grows acorns.

An oak tree starts to grow acorns when it is about 40 years old.

Acorns grow in summer and fall to the ground in autumn.

Finally, the life cycle starts again!



Questions

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

- ☐ an apple
- ☐ an acorn
- ☐ a conker

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

- ☐ a root
- ☐ a shoot
- ☐ a leaf

3. What helps the seedling to grow? **Tick one.**

- ☐ fog
- ☐ wind
- ☐ sunlight

4. What is a young tree called? **Tick one.**

- ☐ a sprout
- ☐ a sapling
- ☐ a seedling

5. How old is an oak tree when it grows acorns? **Tick one.**

- ☐ 40 years old
- ☐ 100 years old
- ☐ 10 years old

Answers

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

- ☐ an apple
- ☒ **an acorn**
- ☐ a conker

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

- ☒ **a root**
- ☐ a shoot
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- ☐ wind
- ☒ **sunlight**

4. What is a young tree called? **Tick one.**

- ☐ a sprout
- ☒ **a sapling**
- ☐ a seedling

5. How old is an oak tree when it grows acorns? **Tick one.**

- ☒ **40 years old**
- ☐ 100 years old
- ☐ 10 years old

Life Cycle of an Oak Tree

English oak trees are the most common tree in the UK. But how do they grow? Let's take a look at the life cycle of an oak tree.

Acorn

The fruit of an oak tree is called an 'acorn'. Inside each acorn is one seed that could grow into an oak tree. Acorns fall from the oak tree in autumn. Only a few acorns will grow into oak trees.



Sprout

In the spring, the seed inside the acorn sends a root down into the soil. This root takes up water and helps the seed stay in place. Next, the seed sends up a shoot.



Seedling

The shoot grows up through the ground and grows small leaves. The rain, sunlight and soil help the seedling to grow. It starts to grow taller with more leaves and roots.



Sapling

The seedling grows and becomes a young tree called a 'sapling'. A sapling has a thin bendy trunk, smooth bark and doesn't grow flowers or acorns.



Oak Tree

It takes many years for the oak tree to reach its full size. A sapling becomes an adult oak tree when it grows acorns, which is usually when it is about 40 years old. Acorns grow in summer and fall to the ground in autumn. Finally, the life cycle starts again!



Questions

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

- ☐ beech tree
☐ oak tree
☐ horse chestnut tree

2. Number the stages of an oak tree's life cycle from 1-5. The first one has been done for you.

	sapling
1	acorn
	adult oak tree
	seedling
	sprout

3. Draw **three** lines to match up the boxes to complete these sentences.

The rain, sunlight and soil

is called an 'acorn'.

The fruit of an oak tree

when it grows acorns.

A sapling becomes an adult oak tree

help the seedling to grow.

4. Fill in the missing word.

Acorns fall from the oak tree in _____.

spring

summer

autumn

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

Answers

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

- ☐ beech tree
☒ **oak tree**
☐ horse chestnut tree

2. Number the stages of an oak tree's life cycle from 1-5. The first one has been done for you.

4	sapling
1	acorn
5	adult oak tree
3	seedling
2	sprout

3. Draw **three** lines to match up the boxes to complete these sentences.

The rain, sunlight and soil	•	•	is called an 'acorn'.
The fruit of an oak tree	•	•	when it grows acorns.
A sapling becomes an adult oak tree	•	•	help the seedling to grow.

4. Fill in the missing word.

Acorns fall from the oak tree in autumn.

spring summer autumn

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

take up water and help the seed to stay in place

Life Cycle of an Oak Tree

There are two main types of oak trees: the English oak tree and the sessile oak tree. English oak trees are the most common oak trees in the UK. Let's take a look at the life cycle of an oak tree.

Acorn

The fruit of an oak tree is called an 'acorn'. Inside each acorn is one seed that could grow into an oak tree. Some oak trees can grow 10,000 acorns every year!

Acorns fall from the oak trees in autumn. Many of these acorns are eaten by animals, like squirrels and mice, and only some will go on to grow into adult oak trees.

Sprout

Acorn seeds germinate (begin to grow) in spring.

When the seed inside the acorn starts to grow, it sends a root down into the soil first. This root takes up water and helps the seed stay in place. Next, the seed sends up a shoot.

Seedling

A sprout becomes a seedling when the shoot first appears above ground. It has a thin stem and small green leaves. The rain, sunlight and nutrients in the soil help the seedling to grow. It starts to grow taller with more leaves and roots.



Life Cycle of an Oak Tree

Sapling

The seedling grows slowly into a young tree, which is called a 'sapling'.

A sapling has a thin bendy trunk and smooth bark. It also doesn't grow flowers or acorns. Most of these saplings will continue to grow into adult oak trees.



Oak Tree

It takes many years for the oak tree to reach its full size. An oak tree can grow more than 40 metres tall!

A sapling becomes an adult oak tree once it starts to grow acorns. This is usually when it is around 40 years old. Acorns grow in summer and fall to the ground in autumn.



Finally, the life cycle starts again!

Did You Know...?

Oak trees can live for more than 1000 years! Lots of different animals call oak trees home, such as bats, birds, insects and squirrels.

Questions

1. What are the two main types of oak tree? **Tick two.**

- ☐ English oak tree
- ☐ major oak tree
- ☐ sessile oak tree
- ☐ northern red oak tree

2. How long does it take before an oak tree starts to grow acorns? **Tick one.**

- ☐ 10 years
- ☐ 20 years
- ☐ 30 years
- ☐ 40 years

3. Find and copy **one** word that means 'begin to grow'.

4. What **three** things help a seedling to grow?

5. Fill in the missing word.

A sprout becomes a _____ when the shoot first appears above ground.

sapling

seedling

adult

6. Why do you think oak trees make such a good home for animals?

Answers

1. What are the two main types of oak tree? **Tick two.**

- ☒ **English oak tree**
- ☐ major oak tree
- ☒ **sessile oak tree**
- ☐ northern red oak tree

2. How long does it take before an oak tree starts to grow acorns? **Tick one.**

- ☐ 10 years
- ☐ 20 years
- ☐ 30 years
- ☒ **40 years**

3. Find and copy **one** word that means 'begin to grow'.

germinate

4. What **three** things help a seedling to grow?

rain, sunlight and nutrients in the soil

5. Fill in the missing word.

A sprout becomes a seedling when the shoot first appears above ground.

sapling

seedling

adult

6. Why do you think oak trees make such a good home for animals?

Children's own responses.