



Avocado

How were avocado seeds probably dispersed in pre-historical times?

- 1- Large mammals that are now extinct, such as giant sloths and elephants would eat whole avocados and their dung was full of large avocado seeds, ready to sprout.
- 2- People used to collect the avocado seeds and plant them as they loved the nutritious, tasty flesh
- 3- There were no avocados in pre-historical times

Baobab

What is the oldest baobab tree and how big is it?

- 1- The oldest baobab tree is 300 years old and stands in the garden of the King of Zambia. It is 40 metres tall and it takes a circle of eight people to go around it
- 2- The oldest baobab tree, in South Africa, has become a pub! It is over 6,000 years old, now hollow, 22 metres tall and has a circumference of 47 metres.
- 3- The oldest baobab tree is 1 million years old and completely fossilized. It was found in the rocks of Zimbabwe and measured 14 metres

Why are baobabs very useful for people and animals?

- 1- Baobabs are called the 'trees of life' and provide shelter, clothing, food and water for people and animals in Africa. The bark and stem are made into cloth and rope. The bark fibre is used for nets, baskets, cloth and even huts. The leaves, roots and bark are used as medicines and food. The ash is used for red dye and soap making. And, inside the tree bees often form colonies and the honey can be collected by people and animals.
- 2- Baobabs are good for tourists, as they are impressive and interesting. People take selfies and in Zambia, there is even a baobab museum! The museum donates the money they make to wildlife conservation
- 3- Baobabs are big enough for monkey groups to live in, they are also called 'monkey trees' and their fruit ('monkey fruit') is very popular with monkeys and people

Cork oak

Who used cork in the past?

- 1- The Australian Aboriginals used cork for footwear and didgeridoos
- 2- Africans used cork for hut building and for boughs for shooting animals
- 3- Ancient cultures like the Chinese and Persians used cork for building light and floating structures. The Romans used cork for soles for sandals and for boats.

Where are most cork trees found?

- 1- 50% of all cork oak forest are found in Portugal.
- 2- All cork trees are found in Australia or in botanical gardens and parks elsewhere

- 3- Cork trees cover all of the warm climates across the globe

Which rare wildlife really needs cork oaks?

- 1- Cork oaks provide a home for nesting raptors, like eagles, and Iberian Lynx and they are good for rare fungi and ferns
- 2- Cork oaks are brilliant for squirrels and rabbits as they provide nesting holes and the flowers around the base are a good source of vitamins for rodents
- 3- Cork oaks are used by Australian mammals like koalas and wombats

Dragon trees or Dracaena

Why are dragon trees called dragon trees?

- 1- In Chinese folk tales, dragon trees were the trees chosen by dragons to gather, learn new skills and discuss strategies to defeat princes and knights
- 2- In Greek mythology, a little girl slayed a dragon at the foot of this tree and she became a goddess
- 3- One species produces a bright red tree sap, called 'dragon's blood'.

Dragon trees are called 'succulents' just like cacti. What are they?

- 1- Succulents are trees that suck up insects, just like pitcher plants
- 2- Succulents have waxy, hairy or spiny stems and leaves, to save water and stay cool in hot climates.
- 3- Succulents are only found in Mexico and the word 'suc' means 'spiny' in Spanish

Eucalyptus

Where do you find Eucalyptus trees and how many species are there?

- 1- Australia: 100-150 species
- 2- Africa: 300-400 species
- 3- Australia, over 700 species

Which instrument is made from Eucalyptus wood?

- 1- Didgeridoos, a traditional Australian Aboriginal wind instrument. The trunk of the tree is hollowed out by termites and then cut down if it the right size and shape.
- 2- Ukelele, a small Mexican guitar - the names are linked too
- 3- Many instruments are made from Eucalyptus wood as it doesn't rot: for instance guitars, clarinets and recorders

Why do Eucalyptus trees sometimes explode?

- 1-Eucalyptus oil is highly flammable and trees that are on fire sometimes explode.
- 2-Australian people blow up Eucalyptus trees to find gold between the roots underneath
- 3-They sometimes explode, or fall apart, in earthquakes, as they are fast growing they are very fragile

Fig

Which animal is very important for figs and why?

- 1-Fig wasps go inside figs to lay eggs and pollinate the figs
- 2-Donkeys eat figs and the seeds sprout into new trees through donkey dung
- 3-Sheep carry sticky fig seeds in their wool and spread the seeds to grow into new trees

Which people used fig wood?

- 1-Ancient Egyptians used the very soft fig wood to create mummy caskets
- 2-In the Mediterranean, fig wood is used for wooden bowls and spoons
- 3-Ancient Greeks used fig wood to make wooden structures to support their temples and other stone buildings

Which people loved figs?

- 1-Figs were commonly eaten by the Romans and fruits were given to geese to fatten them up for consumption.
- 2-Figs were popular with Persian kings, whose servants made them into sweet wine and fig cakes
- 3-Figs were used in wedding cakes with dates and raisins in Ancient Greece

Giant Sequoia

How do sequoias top up their water intake as they are so tall and the water from the roots can't travel that far up?

- 1-They take up moisture from fog, through air roots
- 2-During very hot and dry summers, the fire brigade in the USA injects water into the trunks of the tallest trees (usually half way up the trunk)
- 3-The sponge-like leaves at the top soak up water very easily as they are very big and full of tiny holes

Which creatures help release seeds from the hard scales and cones?

- 1- Beetles help by boring holes through the scales and squirrels gnaw on fleshy green scales of younger cones and help dislodge and drop cones
- 2- Woodpeckers drill open the cones and the seeds fall onto the forest floor
- 3- Grizzly and black bears climb the trees, eat the cones and many spare seeds drop down

Horse chestnut

Why is this tree called a horse chestnut?

- 1- The scars on the twigs after the leaves have dropped, are in the shape of a horseshoe with seven 'nails'.
- 2- People used to believe that eating the fruit cured horses of chest complaints – which is not true, as conkers are poisonous to horses.
- 3- The leaves of the chestnut were very popular food for horses in summer to top up grass and straw

Where does the name conker come from?

- 1- William the Conqueror planted many horse chestnuts in the UK, as the trees are beautiful and provide shade in parks and gardens
- 2- The name conker comes from bonkers – children who played with the chestnuts would be called 'bonkers about conkers'. A strapline a head teacher from Oxford once made up.
- 3- The name conker comes from the french word conch, or shell, as the children's game conkers was originally played with snail shells.

Ivy

Why is ivy a wildlife friendly plant in winter?

- 1- Birds hide in the thick layers of ivy leaves when it is very cold
- 2- Foxes and hedgehogs use the branches and leaves to build their dens to sleep in during the winter months
- 3- Ivy nectar and berries are available in winter and very good food sources for birds and bees, as other plants don't offer anything in winter as these are not flowering or producing fruits.

Juniper

Why did many of the earliest prehistoric people live in or near juniper forests?

- 1- They were excellent for berries, fuel and wood used for shelter and utensils.
- 2- The dense branches and the strong smell of the berries and wood protected the people against wolves and bears
- 3- The trees were up to 40 m tall, very good for watch men to look out for enemies and wild animals and warn their tribes

What kind of story is 'The Juniper tree'?

- 1-A Norwegian fairy tale about how the juniper tree tried to become a Christmas tree
- 2-An American story about ten children who found a tree to play and hide in
- 3-A German fairy tale about a stepmother's jealousy and doesn't end well....

Kentucky coffee tree

Which green vegetable is related to the Kentucky coffee tree and where does it naturally grow?

- 1-Coffee trees are related to cacao trees, and can be found in remote jungles of Africa
- 2-Coffee trees are part of the pea family and are native in North America.
- 3-Coffee trees are African trees that are related to baobabs

Lebanon Cedar

What did King Solomon use cedar wood for?

- 1-To build his temple in Jerusalem.
- 2-To build a big war ship
- 3-To build his big palace and all the houses in the palace ground

Cedar trees are important for wildlife and to keep soil and water in one place. Who was the first to try to officially protect this species?

- 1- King Solomon was the first to protect the species, as he didn't want all the trees to be cut down so there would be none left.
- 2- The Roman Emperor Hadrian was the first who attempted to officially protect the species, back in 118 AD.
- 3- The Ancient Egyptians wanted to protect them as they worshipped the trees in religious rituals and cutting them down meant bad luck

Mangroves

What are mangroves?

- 1-Tropical trees and shrubs that grow in the sea near land (tidal areas)
- 2-Mango trees that grow in orchards (groves) – the word 'mangogroves' is too long and makes you stutter
- 3-Man-made apple and pear orchards that were created in the Middle Ages

How are mangroves magnificent for people and wildlife?

- 1- They break forceful waves, caused by Tsunamis, cyclones and hurricanes and prevent flooding
- 2- In various countries, local communities heavily rely on the crabs and fish that live in the mangrove roots.
- 3- Mangroves are great habitats for lots of fish, invertebrates and even mammals and birds

New Mexico Prickly Pear cactus and Needle-spine Pineapple cactus

Where can you find cactus plants?

- 1- Only in movies and cartoons, as they were made up by Disney
- 2- In the desert, e.g. in Mexico and Arizona, in the USA.
- 3- In Africa, where only one type of monkey can eat the juicy flowers and fruits (it has found a way to avoid the spines)

Olive tree

Which word comes from 'olive'?

- 1- The word 'oil' is derived from the word 'olive', as olives were the first and main sources of cooking oil.
- 2- 'Alive' – as olive trees have been among the longest surviving trees
- 3- The names Olivia, Oliver and Alicia are directly linked to olive trees and mean 'long living messenger of hope'

In which Bible story was the olive branch an important sign of blessing?

- 1- When the wise men visited baby Jesus, one gave olive oil
- 2- In Noah's ark when the dove brought back a twig of olive at the end of the flood
- 3- In the battle between David and Goliath, when Goliath gave David an olive branch to ask for peace between them

How many olive trees are there in the world?

- 1-140 000
- 2-12 million
- 3-865 million

Palm

What do palm leaves symbolize?

- 1- Victory (Romans and Greeks)
- 2- Love ('palm hearts')

- 3- Excitement (they give you a lot of positive energy)

Quince

What is a quince?

- 1- The fruit of the quince tree that looks like a pear and is very nice when cooked
- 2- A young queen that has married a prince – a tree is named after this
- 3- A French quiz master, Quentin Mince, who named a tree after himself when he discovered it in his aunt's ancient apple orchard

When do people in Croatia plant a quince tree?

- 1- When they move into a new house, as a quince tree in the garden will bring good luck and lots of tasty fruit, shade and shelter
- 2- When, once a year on May day, people add one tree to their community orchard
- 3- When a baby is born as a symbol of fertility, love and life.

Rubber tree

How do people harvest/collect the rubber of the rubber tree?

- 1-Harvesters cut into the rubber (tree sap) vessels and collect the rubber in small buckets
- 2-Harvesters climb to the top where the rubber fruits grow to collect these
- 3-Harvesters have to cut down the tree and strip it to get to the rubber underneath the bark

Sausage tree

What are sausage trees?

- 1- African trees that produce long, sausage-like fruit. The fruits can be up to 1 m long and 5-10 kilos heavy. The trees are up to 20 m tall.
- 2- Very spiny trees where piglets used to get stuck and die. Local people would find the dead pigs and make them into sausages and pork chops
- 3- They were invented by MacDonaldis 50 years ago in America, for their animated commercial about their employees collecting sausages and burgers for Big Macs and Hot Dogs

Which animals like the fruit pulp and seeds best?

- 1- Parrots, baboons, elephants, giraffes, hippos, monkeys, porcupines and bush pigs. The seeds are dispersed in their dung.
- 2- Koalas, kangaroos and wombats eat the fruit, which gives kangaroos their strong kicks.
- 3- African farmers feed the pulp to their cows and sheep as it is healthy, easy and cheap

Tree ferns

How old are tree ferns?

- 1- Tree ferns are quite old, but not as old as our pine trees
- 2- Tree ferns are very old, they were around from the Ice and Stone Ages
- 3- Tree ferns are ancient plants, with fossils going back up to 160 million years

Ugli fruit (or Uniq fruit)

What is Ugli fruit?

- 1- A very ugly, smelly, prickly soft fruit that grows in the jungles of Thailand
- 2- An ugly, wrinkly fruit, also called a 'Jamaican tangelo'. It's a cross between a grapefruit, an orange and a tangerine
- 3- A fruit discovered by Mr Uniq Ugliano (nick name 'Ugli') from Swasiland, and grown on 30 000 fruit farms across Africa today

Vines

What is a vine?

- 1- A vine is another name for 'climbing plant'. Other climbing plants are ivy and honeysuckle. The best known vine is a grape vine, but kiwis and tomatoes grow on vines too

- 2- A vine is a bush that can be squeezed or tapped to produce wine and grape juice
- 3- A vine is a group of very fine leaved plants with tiny white flowers

Which God is the God of grape wine, always pictured with bunches of grapes?

- 1- The Greek God Poseidon
- 2- The Chinese God Drunk-chi-wang
- 3- The Greek God Dionysus, or Bacchus in Roman mythology

Weeping Willow

What does a weeping willow look like?

- 1- It is a type of pine tree, with long needles pointing down (the tree looks sad)
- 2- It is a tree that grows near water with catkins and leaves that turn gold-yellow in autumn.
- 3- It is a tree that people used to hug when they were sad after a funeral, that's why it's called a weeping willow

X mas tree

What did people traditionally decorate Christmas trees with?

- 1- With candy canes and little presents
- 2- With dried out oranges, cinnamon sticks and woolen tinsel
- 3- With apples, nuts or dates and, much later, with candles and angels and stars.

How and when did the Christmas tree come to America?

- 1- German soldiers introduced the tree to Canada in 1781. In America, a picture of an English tree was published in a very influential lady's book, which spread the idea.
- 2- When Coca cola introduced a red Father Christmas (he used to have a green outfit), the Americans adopted Christmas trees to keep the green colour alive in their traditions. It was also a good place for Father Christmas to put the presents.
- 3- The American president John F Kennedy bought a tree on his honeymoon in Paris for his wife Jackie. They had it shipped to Washington in their private jet. Everybody loved the decorated tree and the next year, Kennedy ordered ten ships full of English Christmas trees for the most important citizens.

When did the Christmas tree come to England?

- 1- In 1950, when the Pope and archbishop allowed Christian countries to put up trees. They were originally pagan trees, but in England, these 'trees of life' symbolized the birth of Jesus
- 2- In 1800, but first only in the royal household. When Queen Victoria was a child, she got used to a tree being put up in each room of her house. During wartime trees were put up in hospitals and barracks, and later inside churches (early 20th century).
- 3- Already in the Stone Age people came together for simple celebrations around wild pine trees late December, to ask the gods to bring warm weather and enough to eat in the year ahead

Yew tree

What does the name Yew mean?

- 1- The name 'Yew' relates to the Jewish traditions in America and Israel to celebrate Passover with a yew tree. The poisonous red seeds are bitter and symbolized the bitterness of the ancient story (Jews now use bitter herbs, as they can be eaten!)
- 2- The name 'Yew' comes from Yeo Valley, the area in Devon, England, where yews have been planted since the Middle Ages. Their leaves are used in traditional and modern medicine
- 3- The name 'Yew' means brown colour and 'Taxus' (the Latin name) is 'toxic'. Yew leaves are highly poisonous, but are successfully used in drugs treating cancer!

How can small birds like finches and tits eat the deadly yew berries without being affected?

- 1- The poisonous seeds are opened and eaten by birds but their stomachs don't break down the toxins and the seeds go straight through their system
- 2- Over thousands of years of evolution, their blood and organs have got used to the toxic berries and keep functioning

- 3- Most of the birds do die, but people wouldn't notice, they only see the ones that are lucky and escape death

Why are yews the longest-living plants in Europe?

- 1- Yews grow often in church yard where they are left alone and not chopped down. They also benefit from the shelter of the church and the peace and quiet.
- 2- They grow very, very slowly and their wood is incredibly strong
- 3- Their secret is that they cope well with heavy branches (they just split and survive) and they cope well with disease (after they split or break)

Why are there so many yew trees in church yards and other religious sites?

- 1- Mainly to discourage farmers from letting animals wander onto burial grounds. They knew the poisonous leaves could kill their animals
- 2- Yew trees symbolize long lives and it was hoped that those who were buried would have everlasting life in heaven. Until 200 years ago, people would scatter yew berries and say prayers for the dead once a year.
- 3- Yew tree wood was used for altars, crosses and even church furniture. It was very convenient to have the wood on site, so craftsmen didn't have to drag the heavy wood to the church (and many churches are on hill tops)

Why was yew wood so popular in the past?

- 1- The Ancient Romans used yew wood in their Roman villas and villages, for beams and wooden utensils
- 2- The native Americans used yew wood in their rituals. They made panpipes and flutes. They considered the wood sacred, as the poisonous berries and leaves were used in medicines
- 3- It was ideal wood for longbows used in warfare in the Middle Ages. In 1350 there was a serious shortage because of the production of longbows. Henry IV ordered his royal bow maker to enter private land and cut yew. In the 17th century there were no mature trees left but the bows were soon replaced by guns.

Zebrawood

What is the use of zebrawood famous for?

- 1- Zebrawood is a precious hard wood used for Cadillac and Mercedes cars. It is now a threatened species.
- 2- Zebrawood is well known in South African game reserves, where large groups of zebras gather every year to rub off their old fur on the rough bark
- 3- Zebrawood is black and white and stripy and used for furniture and walls in royal palaces in Persia. It is rare and beautiful. The more zebrawood, the more status the king used to have.

Quiz by Petra Crofton (2018)



Answers:

A 1	B 2; 1	C 3; 1; 1	D 3; 2	E 3; 1; 1	F 1;1;1	G 1; 1	H 1; 3	I 1	J 1; 3
K 2	L 1; 2	M 1; all	N 2	O 3 (1); 2; 3	P 1	Q 1; 2	R 1	S 1; 1	T 3
U 2	V 1; 3	W 2	X 1	Y 3; 1; 2; 1; 3	Z 1				