

Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

Science

Science

Earth Science

Oak Trees

Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare and Contrast• Draw Conclusions• Monitor and Fix Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Captions• Diagram• Labels

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by **Kristin Cashore**
illustrated by **Donna Catanese**





Oak Trees

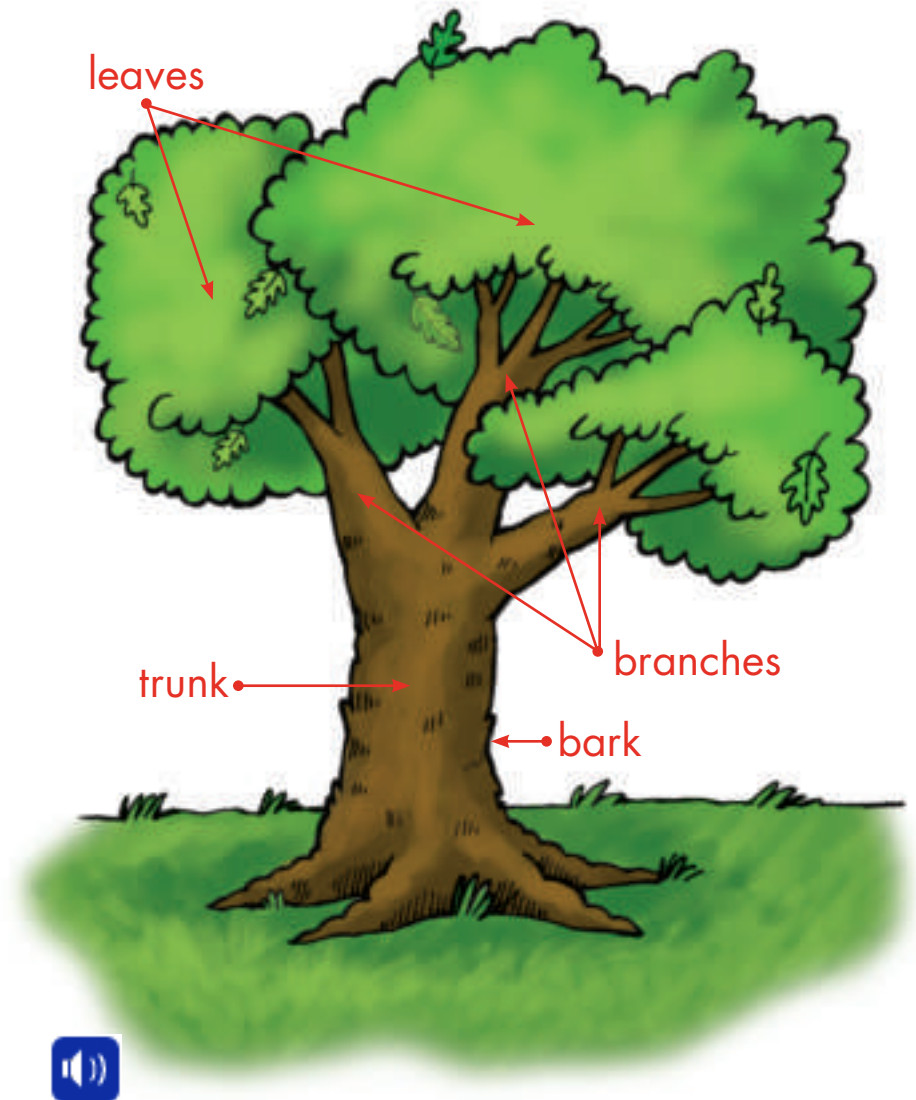


by Kristin Cashore
illustrated by Donna Catanese



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This is an oak tree. Have you ever seen one?

An oak tree has gray or black bark. Its trunk is large. An oak tree has thin branches and green leaves in spring and summer. Oak trees are among the tallest trees around.

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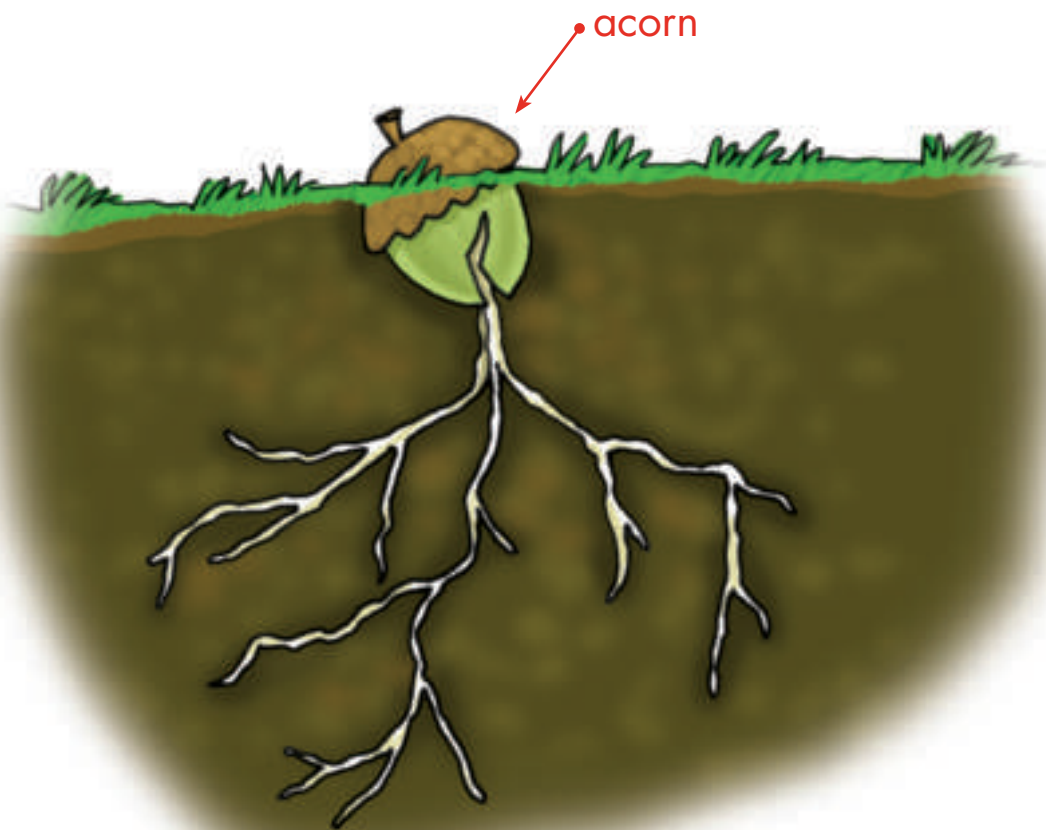
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How does an oak tree begin its life?

An oak tree starts as an acorn. An acorn is a nut with a seed inside. When the seed is planted in the ground, the oak tree starts to grow.



Oak trees start out small. But then they keep growing and growing!

Water from the soil and light from the sun help the acorn to sprout and grow. Soon another oak tree stretches to the sky.





One oak tree in Maryland grew to be ninety-six feet tall. Its trunk was thirty-two feet around! It would fill up your bedroom. That tree lived to be 460 years old. Then in 2002, it fell down in a big storm.




This oak tree in Maryland lived 460 years.



Oak trees can live for hundreds of years. How old do you think this tree is now?


An oak tree reaches high into the air. Some oak trees are more than one hundred feet tall!



 There are many large oak trees. It is hard to say which tree is the tallest. It is also hard to say which tree is the oldest. None of these trees live forever. But some live for a very long time!




 This oak tree in Virginia is five hundred years old!


 In the fall, oak leaves turn many beautiful colors. Then the oak trees drop their leaves.

Have you ever raked leaves in the fall? You could look for oak leaves when you are raking!



 An oak leaf looks like this.




 Oak trees are home to many animals. Birds like to make nests in oak trees. Squirrels live in oak trees too.

Other animals, instead of living there, use oak trees for food. Deer, bears, and squirrels all eat acorns from oak trees.



This owl made a home for her family in an oak tree.

 People also like oak trees. Oak trees give shade from the sun, and they are beautiful to look at.

Wood from an oak tree is good for making chairs and other furniture.



This chair is made of oak wood.





The next time you are out walking, look for an oak tree.

If you like oak trees, you could try planting and growing one of your own. All you need is one acorn!



Think and Share

Read Together

1. Compare the way animals use oak trees with the way people use oak trees. Use a chart like the one below to give examples.

How Animals Use Oak Trees	How People Use Oak Trees

2. What things help an oak tree to grow? Read the book again if you need help remembering.
3. On a sheet of paper, write all the words from this book that end with *-ing*. Write each base word.
4. Look at the picture on page 5. Then, look at the picture on page 6. How has the tree changed?

