

# Hello Trees Resource Sheet

## What to look for outdoors in Spring Tree Flowers Quiz Answers



All answers can be found in [Hello Trees books](#) which are aimed at 4-7 year olds, and have clear photographs of the 6 clues to a tree's identity. They cover ten common trees: **Ash, Beech, Birch, Crabapple, Hawthorn, Holly, Horsechestnut, Larch, Lime and Oak.**



### Question 1

Which tree do you think has a flower that looks like this?  
(a) ash (b) birch (c) beech Or (d) holly?



### Answer to Question 1

The answer is (a).  
This is an ash tree flower. It makes pollen.  
Pollen-making flowers are called male flowers.



### Question 2

Which tree do you think has a flower that looks like this?  
(a) ash (b) birch (c) beech Or (d) holly?



### Answer to Question 2

The answer is (a).  
This, too, is an ash tree flower. It is the flower that can form seeds.  
Seed-making flowers are called female flowers.  
For seeds to form, pollen from the other flowers must fall on these flowers.

Ash trees either produce male flowers *or* female flowers, *not both* (except occasionally!)  
Surprise! surprise! Trees that produce male flowers are called male trees.  
You can guess what trees that produce only female flowers are called!



### Question 3

Male and female ash flowers look similar especially at first.  
Could you tell whether you are looking at a male or a female ash tree?

There are clues in the little photograph in Question 2.  
Are the clues

- (a) the remains of last year's seeds and empty stems?
- (b) the way that the flower stems are splayed outwards?
- Or (c) leaves appearing at the tip of the twig?



### Answer to Question 3

(a), (b) and (c) are all clues that we are looking at a female ash tree.

- (a) If the tree produced seeds last year, it was a female then and probably a female now!
- (b) Remember: For seeds to form, pollen must fall on female flowers. The more the flowers are spread out, the more likely it is that pollen will fall on their stigmas.
- (c) By the time leaves are emerging, most flowers on a male ash have released their pollen and are either looking grizzled or have dropped off the tree.  
Female flowers, on the other hand are looking prime.

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### Question 4

Do you think that ash trees are (a) wind pollinated? Or (b) insect pollinated?



Remember: For seeds to form, pollen must fall on female flowers.



So, ash tree pollen has to travel all the way from one tree to another.



### Answer to Question 4

Ash trees are wind pollinated.



One clue is that the male flowers of wind-pollinated trees tend to release their pollen before leaves emerge.

Leaves would get in the way of the pollen floating away on the wind.



Another clue is that insect-pollinated flowers tend to be colourful – or bright white – or scented to attract insects.



Yet another clue is that ash flowers appear early in Spring when it is likely to still be too chilly for insects.

More about wind and insect pollination later – or rummage in [Hello Trees resources](#) for fun discovery sheets about each.



### Question 5.

Which of the following trees do you think have flowers in a catkin:

- (a) ash (b) beech (c) birch (d) crabapple (e) hawthorn  
(f) holly (g) horsechestnut (h) larch (i) lime (j) oak?



A catkin is a series of unisex flowers arranged in circles round a slender stem.

Catkin means 'little cat': do you think catkins resemble kittens' tails?



### Answer to Question 5

(b) beech (c) birch and (j) oak trees have catkins.



### Question 6

On which tree do you think you would find these catkins at some time in the year?



*i*



*ii*



*iii*



*iv*



### Answer to Question 6

Each of these catkins can be found on a birch tree at some time or other of the year.

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### Question 7

Which of the birch catkins, would you say, turns into which other?

How many possible answers do you think there are?



For those of you who have started to learn about probabilities, you could try calculating all the permutations and then the combinations.

The numbers are ridiculously large. I shall make it easy for you:

Does i become ii? (b) iii become iv (c) i become iv Or (d) iii become ii?



### Answer to Question 7

(c) and (d) are the right answers: i becomes iv, and iii becomes ii:  
i and iv make pollen, iii and ii make seeds.

To get the whole story, see Hello Trees book [Betty Birch](#)  
and Hello Trees Discovery Sheet [Birch Catkins](#).



### Question 8

Can you name a tree that has catkins in the shape of a ball rather than a sausage?

(a) beech (b) birch? Or (c) oak?

### Answer to Question 8

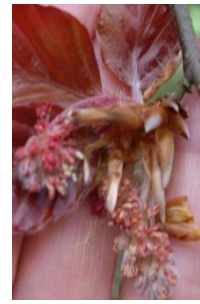
(a) is the answer.



Both beech and copper beech have ball-shaped catkins.



beech catkins



copper beech catkins



### Question 9.

Do you think that the ball-shaped beech catkins

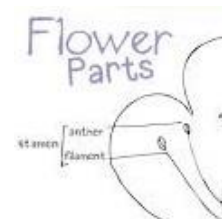
(a) make seeds Or (b) make pollen?



### Answer to Question 9

(b) is the answer.

- Both beech and copper-beech ball-shaped catkins make pollen.
- The catkins are balls of masses of tiny stamens.
- Each stamen has an anther on the tip of a filament.
- Pollen is made in the anthers.
- Beech anthers are very pale green, copper-beech anthers are pink.
- All beech pollen is bright yellow when it is ripe.
- All beech catkins are bright yellow when ripe pollen bursts out of their anthers.



Look out for those lovely fluffy balls dangling on slim stems.

They won't be around for long!

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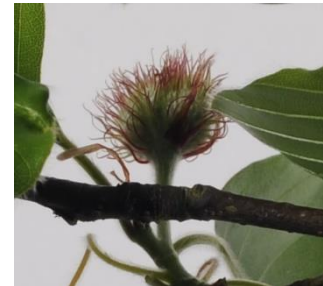
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### Question 10

Which tree do you think has a flower that looks like this?

- (a) lime (b) beech (c) hawthorn Or (d) beech?



They are small and easy to overlook - but worth hunting for.  
Each flower is a delicate green surrounded by long pink hairs.



### Answer to Question 10

(d) is the answer. This flower, too, is a beech tree flower.  
These are the flowers that can form seeds.

Pollen from beech tree catkins must fall on these flowers for seeds to form in it.  
Beech seeds are called beech nuts. More about them in Summer.



There is so much more at [Hello Trees Resources](https://www.hellotrees.co.uk)