

Do you know your Ash from your Elder?

# Richmond Park Tree quiz

Welcome to our Richmond Park Tree Quiz *for all the family*

*Which trees are deer's favourites? Sloe gin is made from fruit of which trees?*

*Which tree is used to make Longbows? - they're all found in Richmond Park!*

## Answers - in red

Note: all the trees in this quiz can be found in Richmond Park outside Pembroke Lodge Gardens and Isabella Plantation.

Q1.

Leaves: match the following photos A to H with these Richmond Park trees 1-8 (1 point for each; 8 points)

- 1) Beech **G**; 2) Crack Willow **D**; 3) English Oak **C**; 4) Field Maple **B**; 5) Hazel **A**; 6) Lime **E**; 7) Scot's Pine **H**; 8)

Sweet Chestnut **F**



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

Q2.

A lot of trees in the Park, especially oaks & willows, had branches cut a long time ago to harvest wood for many purposes. Trees, like the Royal Oak (pictured), are subsequently shorter, more compact and less vulnerable to strong winds. This ancient practice has probably extended the life of the Royal Oak by maybe 100 years or more. What is this practice called?

a) Pruning b) Pollarding c) Coppicing

(1 point) **b) Pollarding - All the Park's older pollards were cut**





originally before 1637

Q3.

Identify, from the photo clues below, these four types of tree that have been planted in the Park to provide food for deer (1 point each, total 4 points). **L-R: English Oak, Beech, Horse Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut**



Q4.

Which tree (pictured right) has a common name of the month when it flowers? It was also known as the 'bread and cheese' tree because young leaves were used for the ploughman's lunch in times of hardship. 1 point for its 'name of the month' and 1 point for its other proper name.

**'May' or Hawthorn;**



Q5. Which water-loving tree (below), thought to house evil spirits, was



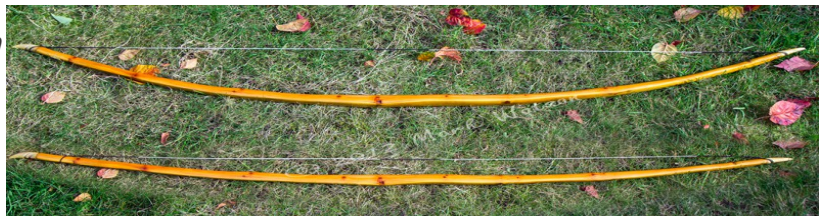
used in Venice because its wood does not rot in water? It carries small cones much of the year and has round leaves. 1 point

**Alder: see 'Tree of the Month' (March) [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)**

Q6. Which

is the longest-living type of tree in Britain, often seen growing in churchyards and used to make longbows (right) in the middle ages? 1 point

**Yew**



Q7. Fill in the missing tree name from this well known saying: "oak before **Ash**, in for a splash; **Ash** before oak, in for a soak", (referring to the time of leafing). There is a fine mature example of this tree (left) to the north-west of Prince Charles's Spinney (towards the Pen Ponds car park). This species is under severe threat because of a fungal disease. 1 point



Q8.

What is the main reason why:

a) Dead wood is left lying on the ground

Richmond Park? **Rotting down into soil or providing food for and a home beetles (especially stag beetles)**

b) Veteran trees (like the Royal Oak) are fenced off? **Preventing root compaction (dangerous for old trees) by visitors.** 1 point for each correct answer, up to 2 points!

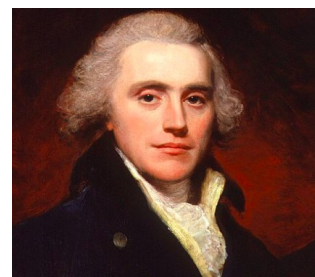




Q9.

The Prime Minister pictured was responsible for creating some 15 woods in Richmond Park, including the largest in the Park which was named after him. Who was he? (1 point) (Picture: William Beechey)

**Henry Addington, Lord Sidmouth, PM 1801 - 1804. More importantly, he was Deputy Ranger of the Park (the King was Ranger). Sidmouth Wood is opposite Pembroke Lodge with a useful cut-through to the Royal Oak.**



Q10.

Which tall tree (below), found near the Park's ponds and streams, used to be one of the commonest trees (clue: you could say it was 'popular'!) on the floodplains of southern England thousands of years ago but it is now rare? This one is between Cambrian and Bog Gates by the side of a stream. (1 point) **Wild black poplar'. The Park is helping with propagation of these trees in the Isabella Plantation nursery. Several young trees have been planted, including near this one and around Attenborough Pond, near Robin Hood Gate.**



Q11.

Which tree (right) grows profusely in some areas of the Park, especially where the ground has been cleared, and is known as the 'lady of the woods'? This white-barked tree used to be well known for its use as an instrument of corporal punishment! (1 point) **Silver Birch, a very elegant tree**



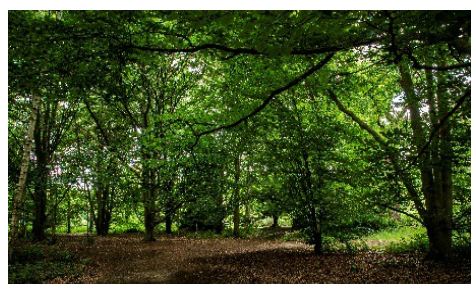
Q12. This well known national flag depicts a leaf of a tree which also grows in Britain. Can you name the tree for 1 point and the country for a 2<sup>nd</sup> point? **Maple and Canada**

Q13. Why do a lot of the trees in the Park have yellow discs, like the one pictured right, on them? (1 point) **The tree has been visited by oak processionary moths, a pest which strips the oak leaves. The hairs of the caterpillar can cause rashes, eye irritation and respiratory problems; nests are removed systematically**



Q14.

Which tree with long thorns produces these berries that go into making delicious sloe gin? (1 point) **Blackthorn; long associated with witchcraft, and it's said that witches' wands and staffs were made using blackthorn wood!**



Q15.

This tree (left) casts a deep shade and makes up about a fifth of all the trees in the Park. It is known as the "queen of the woods" and forked twigs are used for water 'divining' (finding water). What is it? (1 point) **Beech: thought to have medicinal properties, leaves were boiled to**

*make a poultice used to relieve swellings*

**Q16.** Which tree, known as the 'king of the woods', had timber supplied to the Royal Navy to make ships? (1 point)

(Picture: Battle of Trafalgar 1805, Richard

Grenville) **The English Oak. 'Heart of Oak' is the marching anthem of the Royal Navy; the 'heart' is the strongest bit of the oak tree.**



**Q17.** This pungent flower makes a delicious, refreshing summer drink and is about to burst into full flower on small trees across the country and the Park. What is it? (1 point)

**Elder; in mythology, it was thought that if you burned Elder wood you would see the Devil, but if you planted elder by your house it would keep the Devil away!**



*A maximum of 30 points can be scored: how many can you get?*

*Was your score tree-mendous?*

Good luck, hope you enjoyed it!