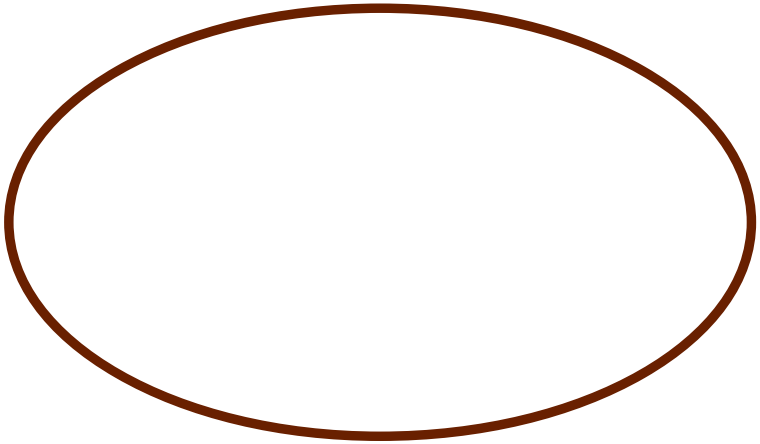
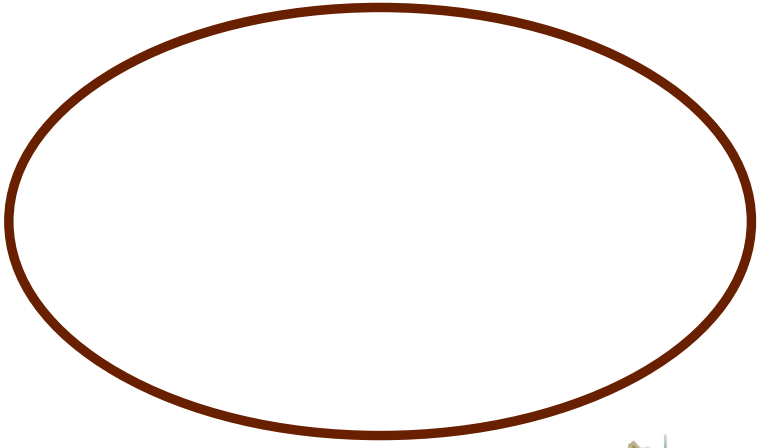
Save your favourite bark with a rubbing



Make an impression of tree bark with this simple method
Place your activity sheet against the bark of a tree.
Make sure that the tree is dry.
Using the side of your crayon, rub the paper inside the ovals.



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Bark Life

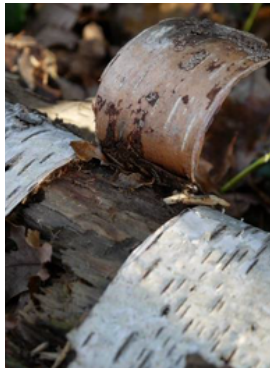
Bark Trail

Have you ever looked at a tree's bark and wondered what it's for? Well today we'll look at some interesting facts about bark and discover the many uses that people around the world have found for it.

1. Chilean Myrtle - *Luma apiculata*

This beautiful tree is from Chile and Western Argentina. Its leaves smell spicy when crushed and produce fragrant white flowers which develop into delicious plum like fruit. The inner bark froths up like soap when exposed to water. Even on a hot day, the bark of this tree remains cool!

Bark Layers



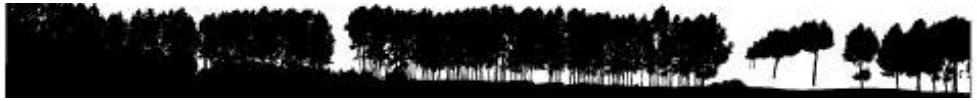
Bark is like the skin of a tree and is made of two layers:

Outer bark helps protect the tree from animals, insects or fungus that might like to eat or burrow into it. Some bark has strong flavours, scents and toxins to prevent foragers from damaging the tree.

Inner bark is made of living cells called phloem which move sugars made in the leaves around the rest of the tree and xylem which brings water and nutrients from the roots. Both layers protect the cambium which allows the tree to grow wider each year.

10. Giant Redwood - Sequoiadendron giganteum

Hailing from the west coast of California, Giant Redwoods are the biggest living organisms in the world and can live for a long time. Some trees have lived for up to 3,500 years. The bark has a fibrous texture and can grow up to 2 feet thick, which helps protect the tree from forest fires. Feel how spongy the bark is! Can you spot any treecreepers? This bird that creeps up along the trunk of a tree and loves to dig holes and nest in the bark.



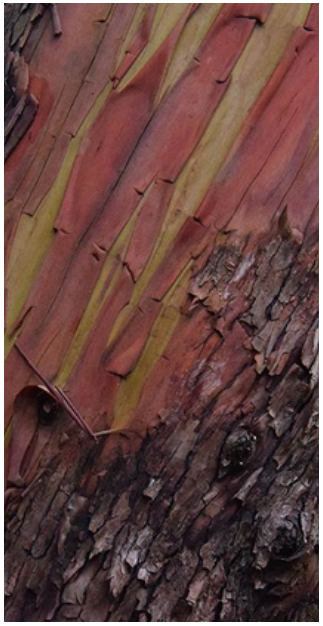
Question:

What common spice comes from dried bark? Circle your answer

Cloves Cinnamon Nutmeg

9. Common Walnut - *Juglans regia*

This tree grows from eastern Europe all the way to China. Walnuts are edible, but the trees produce a toxic chemical called juglone. The ancient Greeks and Romans used to throw empty walnut shells into ponds where the juglone would poison fish for easy collection. However, chemicals from the bark have also been used as an antiseptic!



10. Greek Strawberry Tree - *Arbutus x andrachnoides*

This tree produces bright red fruit and has beautiful peeling bark. Scientists can't agree on why some trees have peeling bark. Some say that it protects against foraging animals by having a small amount of dead material available to eat. Another theory is that trees with peeling bark may be able to collect more energy from the sun on their stem through photosynthesis.

2. Red Cedar - Thuja plicata

The bark of the Red Cedar was used for a variety of items by the Indigenous peoples of Canada. The raw bark could be pounded and transformed into a fibrous material used in making water ladles, canoes, mats, baskets and rope for hanging fish in the smokehouse. The bark was also used for making cloth for babies' nappies!

3. Birch - Betula

Birch trees have strong water resistant bark which is easily cut, bent, and sewn. It has been a valuable building and craft material since prehistoric times. The Native American peoples would craft birch bark canoes to travel along lakes and rivers.Birch bark has also been used like paper for many centuries. Over 700 years ago a Russian boy named Onfim used birch bark to complete his homework and samples of his drawings have been found preserved in the clay soil where he lived. Kids had to do homework even then!

Tree Trivia: Look up into the tree canopy and you'll see things that look a little like nests. These are called "Witch's Brooms" or "galls" and are caused by some fungal irritation or genetic factor. In America, flying squirrels sometimes use these galls as nests when they're too lazy to build one themselves!

4. Scots Pine - *Pinus sylvestris*

This conifer is one of Ireland's oldest native tree species and develops "plates" or scaly bark as it ages. The inner bark is edible! It was ground down and mixed into bread in times of famine. It also played an important part of the diet of the Sami people from the Arctic Circle, providing much needed Vitamin C in the dark winter months.

5. Poplar - *Populus x euroamericana*

You are now standing underneath the tallest tree in the Gardens! Poplar or aspen trees are spread throughout the world and often grow in areas that flood regularly, along rivers and lakes. The bark of poplars contains a chemical called salicylic acid which is used to treat headaches and reduce fevers. In Pakistan, termites are known to burrow into poplar trees. In order to prevent damage to the forest, dead poplar trees are often left nearby to act as an inviting termite 'catch crop'!

Add a little bit of body text

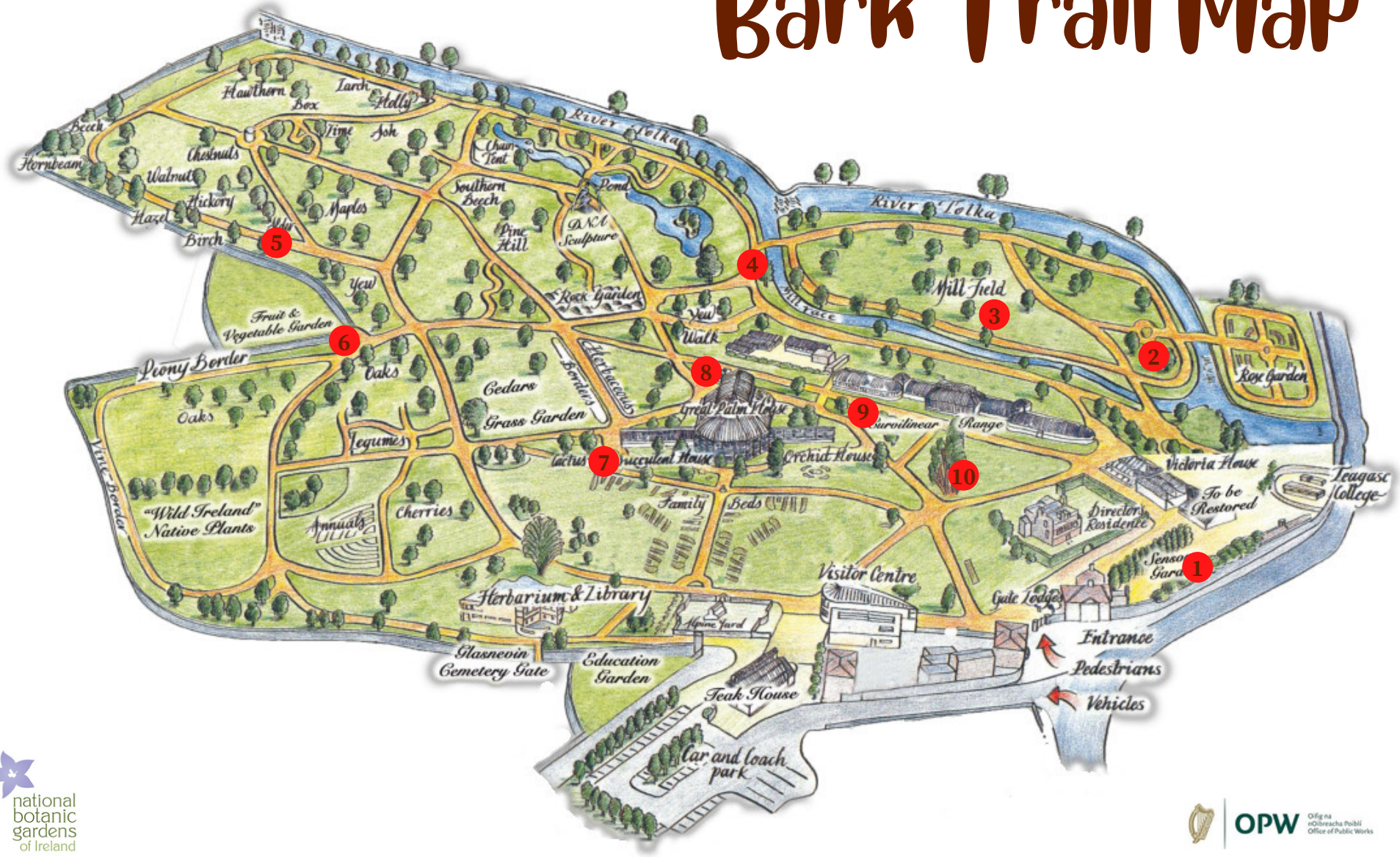
6. Toothache Tree - *Zanthoxylum simulans*

Look at all the spines on the trunk of this tree. This is a defense mechanism against some type of ancient extinct creature who would have tried to strip the tree of its bark, a woolly mammoth or giant ground sloth possibly? Historically, the bark was widely used to treat toothaches as well as colic and infections. It is also used to make Sichuan pepper, a common ingredient in Chinese cooking!

7. Gum Tree - *Eucalyptus gunnii*

Most Eucalyptus trees come from Australia and New Zealand. Eucalyptus is known as the 'gum tree' because of the sticky rubbery substance that flows from the cut bark and is used in chewing gum. The bark however is poisonous to both livestock and people. While oils from the bark have been used as an antiseptic, some people get bad skin rashes upon exposure. Some insects lay eggs and feed on the bark of the Eucalyptus.

Bark Trail Map



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