

# Little Acorns

A little brown acorn falls down to the ground on a chilly but beautiful day. The crisp autumn leaves gently cushion his fall and for now, that is where he will stay.



A squirrel comes by on the hunt for some food and the little brown acorn is found. The squirrel needs acorns when winter arrives so she hides him away underground.

The weather grows colder as winter draws in and the forest is covered with snow.

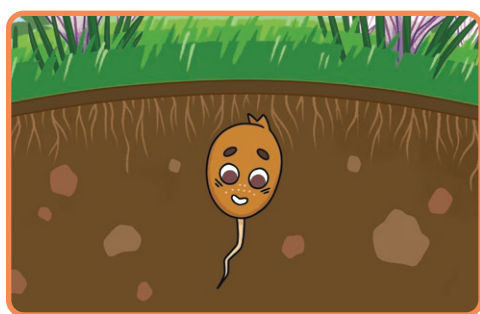
The acorn stays buried alone in the ground as he waits for the right time to grow.

As winter moves on, all the snow disappears and the signs of new life can be seen.

The birds make their nests as the leaves start to grow and the forest is painted in green.

Now springtime is here and the weather's warmed up so the acorn can push down a root.

A little while later, held tight in his spot, he is ready to send up a shoot.



By now, he's a seedling with many small roots that can suck up the water below. His leaves start to form in the warm summer months as the sun shines and helps him to grow.

The little green sapling grows taller each day as the years and the seasons go by.  
As time marches on, he becomes a small tree, with his limbs reaching out for the sky.



Now many years later, he's reached a great height and he stands up so mighty and strong.  
His branches have grown, stretching out all around, and his roots are incredibly long.

He acts as a shelter that's cosy and safe for the animals needing a bed.  
The hole in his trunk is a welcoming spot for a creature to lay down its head.



The tree's now an adult that's ready for change and the buds on his branches are here.  
Then after a while, all the buds open up and his colourful flowers appear.



When all of the flowers have dropped from the tree, his very first acorns arrive. They spring from the branches, inside their round cups; they are tiny but ready to thrive.



When autumn returns, bringing yellow and red, all the leaves become crinkly and dry. The acorns get bigger and slowly turn brown as they sit on their branches up high.

The little brown acorns fall down to the ground on a chilly but beautiful day. The crisp autumn leaves gently cushion their fall and for now, that is where they will stay.



# Questions

1. Which animal finds and buries the acorn underground? **Tick one.**

- ☐ a squirrel
- ☐ a bear
- ☐ a hedgehog

2. In springtime, what is the first thing that grows from the acorn? **Tick one.**

- ☐ a flower
- ☐ a root
- ☐ a stone

3. What do the seedling's roots do? **Tick one.**

- ☐ catch a worm
- ☐ help the seedling to walk
- ☐ suck up the water

4. When the tree's buds open up, what appears? **Tick one.**

- ☐ flowers
- ☐ balloons
- ☐ birds

5. What colour are the acorns when they fall to the ground? **Tick one.**

- ☐ purple
- ☐ brown
- ☐ blue

# Answers

1. Which animal finds and buries the acorn underground? **Tick one.**

- ☒ **a squirrel**
- ☐ a bear
- ☐ a hedgehog

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- ☐ purple
- ☒ **brown**
- ☐ blue

# Questions

1. Which season is it at the beginning of the story? **Tick one.**

- ☐ summer  
☐ winter  
☐ autumn

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

	The acorn grows a root and a shoot.
1	A squirrel buries the acorn underground.
	The tree is now an adult.
	The acorn becomes a seedling.

3. Fill in the missing word.

**By now, he's a seedling with many small \_\_\_\_\_.**

**acorns**

**roots**

**flowers**

4. When all the flowers have dropped from the tree, what happens next?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Circle one word that shows that the acorns are growing.

**The acorns get bigger and slowly turn brown.**

# Answers

1. Which season is it at the beginning of the story? **Tick one.**

- ☐ summer  
☐ winter  
☒ **autumn**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

<b>2</b>	The acorn grows a root and a shoot.
1	A squirrel buries the acorn underground.
<b>4</b>	The tree is now an adult.
<b>3</b>	The acorn becomes a seedling.

3. Fill in the missing word.

**By now, he's a seedling with many small roots.**

**acorns**

**roots**

**flowers**

4. When all the flowers have dropped from the tree, what happens next?

**The first acorns arrive.**

5. Circle one word that shows that the acorns are growing.

**The acorns get bigger and slowly turn brown.**

# Questions

1. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'cold'.

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2. Why does the squirrel hide the acorn underground? **Tick one.**

- ☐ to play a game
- ☐ to grow an oak tree
- ☐ for food when winter arrives

3. Draw **three** lines to match each word with its meaning.

seasons

a young tree

sapling

the changes in the weather  
throughout a year

grow

to get bigger

4. What **two adjectives** are used to describe the leaves in autumn?

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5. Fill in the missing word.

**They spring from the \_\_\_\_\_ , inside their round cups.**

leaves

buds

branches

6. Once the new acorns have fallen to the ground, what do you think happens to them next?

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# Answers

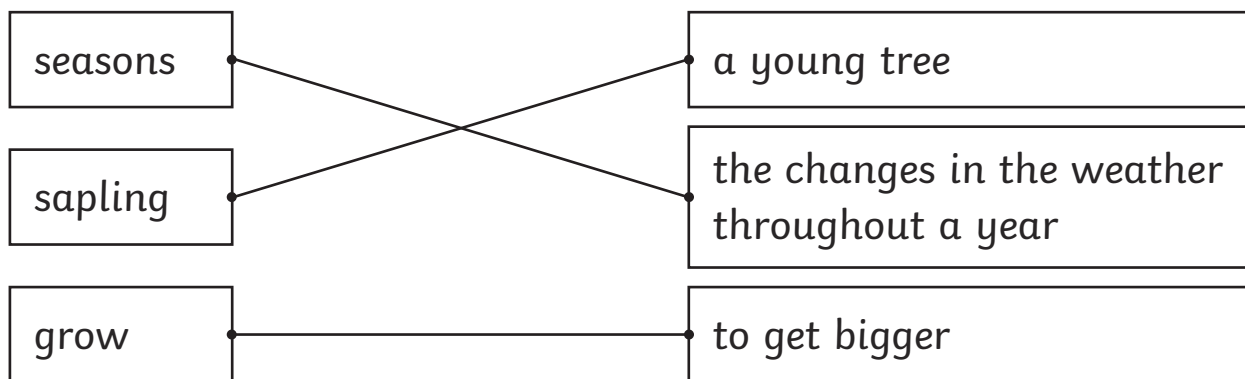
1. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'cold'.

**chilly**

2. Why does the squirrel hide the acorn underground? **Tick one.**

- ☐ to play a game  
☐ to grow an oak tree  
☒ **for food when winter arrives**

3. Draw **three** lines to match each word with its meaning.



4. What **two adjectives** are used to describe the leaves in autumn?

**crinkly and dry**

5. Fill in the missing word.

**They spring from the branches , inside their round cups.**

**leaves**

**buds**

**branches**

6. Once the new acorns have fallen to the ground, what do you think happens to them next?

**Children's own responses. They may offer suggestions related to the oak tree life cycle.**