



CARBON

OXYGEN

SUNLIGHT

The leaves are where the tree makes its food. Using rainwater and sunlight for energy, carbon dioxide from the air is broken apart.

The carbon is stored as food and the oxygen is released. This is called photosynthesis.

There are several sorts of **flowers** that can occur on trees. Catkins are dangling flowers whose pollen is blown by the wind. Brightly coloured flowers with petals are pollinated by insects visiting to collect nectar.

The leaves on the tree cool the air, absorb noise and trap dust.

OUR FRIEND THE TREE

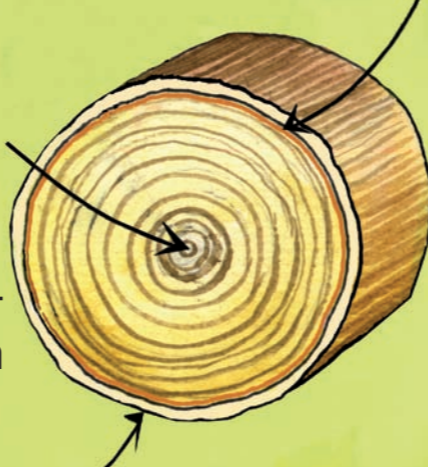
Seeds can be borne in berries or as nuts - these are spread by birds and mammals.

Other trees have winged seeds which are scattered by the wind.

Birds and squirrel build nests in the branches or in holes in trunk.

Just underneath **the bark** is where the most important living cells are. This is where the food travels down from the leaves and where water travels up from the roots.

The tree is a habitat for wildlife. Caterpillars, greenflies and shield-bugs feed on the leaves and in turn are food for ladybirds, spiders and birds.



Every year **the branches** grow thicker and put out **annual shoots**.

Fungi are thread-like organisms that grow throughout the soil around the tree roots. They send up fruiting bodies such as mushrooms and toadstools in autumn. They play a very important role in the breaking down of dead trees.

Roots anchor the tree firmly into the ground. They grow in length and thickness as the tree grows. Water is absorbed from the soil into the tree through the roots.

Soil organisms such as earthworms decompose fallen leaves into compost.



Creating a tree culture in Ireland through action & awareness.

