

## People vote for Tree of the Year

30th October, 2014



Ten trees across England are in the running to be crowned as the nation's Tree of the Year. The poll is organised annually by the environmental charity the Woodland Trust.

Over 200 trees across the land were originally nominated by nature lovers. Some of the trees are located in England's most famous and historic places. One tree, the Major Oak, is in Sherwood Forest, which is where Robin Hood hung out with his band of merry men, robbing the rich to give to the poor. A local newspaper stated: "The legend of Robin Hood was infused within this mighty tree which still exists today." Another historically significant contender is Newton's Apple Tree, whose falling fruit gave Sir Isaac Newton the idea for his theory on gravity.

The Woodland Trust was established in 1972 to protect Britain's ancient forests and trees. It has approximately 400,000 supporters who provide funds to maintain and promote the country's forested land. Its website says: "Our vision is a UK rich in woods and trees, enjoyed and valued by everyone. We aim to create new native woodland with the help of communities, schools, organisations and individuals. We try to protect our precious ancient woods, restore the ones that are damaged and fight for those under threat. We do this by inspiring people up and down the country to visit woods, plant trees, and enjoy the many benefits that woodland has to offer."

Sources: *Liverpool Echo* / *Yahoo.com* / *Woodlands Trust*

## Writing

Forests should never be cut down to build houses and malls. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*trees / crowned / environmental / charity / nature lovers / historic places / gravity / ancient forests / supporters / vision / native woodland / communities / inspiring / offer*

## True / False

- There are 200 trees people can vote for in a competition. T / F
- The contest is organized by an environmental charity. T / F
- One of the trees was made famous by a man called Robin Hood. T / F
- People can vote for the tree from Newton's theory of gravity. T / F
- Around 1,000,000 belong to the charity mentioned in the article. T / F
- The charity wants to stop people going into the woods and forests. T / F
- The charity now only works to protect endangered trees. T / F
- The charity says visiting woodland has many benefits. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. in the running | a. filled               |
| 2. annually       | b. proposed             |
| 3. nominated      | c. about                |
| 4. infused        | d. publicise            |
| 5. significant    | e. on the shortlist for |
| 6. established    | f. endangered           |
| 7. approximately  | g. set up               |
| 8. promote        | h. yearly               |
| 9. under threat   | i. rewards              |
| 10. benefits      | j. important            |

## Discussion – Student A

- How important are trees to you?
- What do you think of the idea of a Tree of the Year?
- What kind of tree might win this competition?
- How do trees make you feel?
- What is your favourite tree and why is it special?
- Should trees be protected?
- How do you feel when trees are cut down?
- What do you think of logging?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. in the running                | a. native woodland         |
| 2. The poll is organised         | b. on gravity              |
| 3. The legend                    | c. under threat            |
| 4. historically                  | d. annually                |
| 5. the idea for his theory       | e. country's forested land |
| 6. promote the                   | f. of Robin Hood           |
| 7. create new                    | g. woodland has to offer   |
| 8. organisations                 | h. to be crowned           |
| 9. fight for those               | i. and individuals         |
| 10. enjoy the many benefits that | j. significant             |

## Discussion – Student B

- What should we do to increase the number of trees?
- Why are trees important?
- What is the woodland in your country like?
- What would happen if all trees became endangered one day?
- What happy memories do you have of trees?
- What are the benefits of woodland?
- Would you fight to save a forest from being cut down?
- What questions would you like to ask the Woodland Trust?

## Spelling

- crowned as the nation's Tree of the Year
- originally nominated by nature lovers
- infused within this mighty tree
- The legend of Robin Hood
- Another historically significant contender
- the idea for his theory on gravity
- established in 1972
- protect Britain's ancient forests
- approximately 400,000 supporters
- with the help of communities
- organisations (UK) / organizations (USA) and individuals
- We do this by inspiring people

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. a	5. j
6. g	7. c	8. d	9. f	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Tree of the Year

You think Tree of the Year is the best competition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ideas are no good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Cake of the Year, English Word of the Year or News Story of the Year.

### Role B – Cake of the Year

You think Cake of the Year is the best competition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ideas are no good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Tree of the Year, English Word of the Year or News Story of the Year.

### Role C – English Word of the Year

You think English Word of the Year is the best competition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ideas are no good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Cake of the Year, Tree of the Year or News Story of the Year.

### Role D – News Story of the Year

You think News Story of the Year is the best competition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ideas are no good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Cake of the Year, English Word of the Year or Tree of the Year.

## Speaking – Thing of the Year

Rank these with your partner. Put the best contest for these "things of the year" at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| • Tree          | • Cake         |
| • TV commercial | • Park         |
| • App           | • News story   |
| • Politician    | • English word |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.