

The holm oak

A very special tree



Its name is Celtic in origin and means “beautiful tree”. To some cultures, it was a sacred tree.



It grows very slowly.



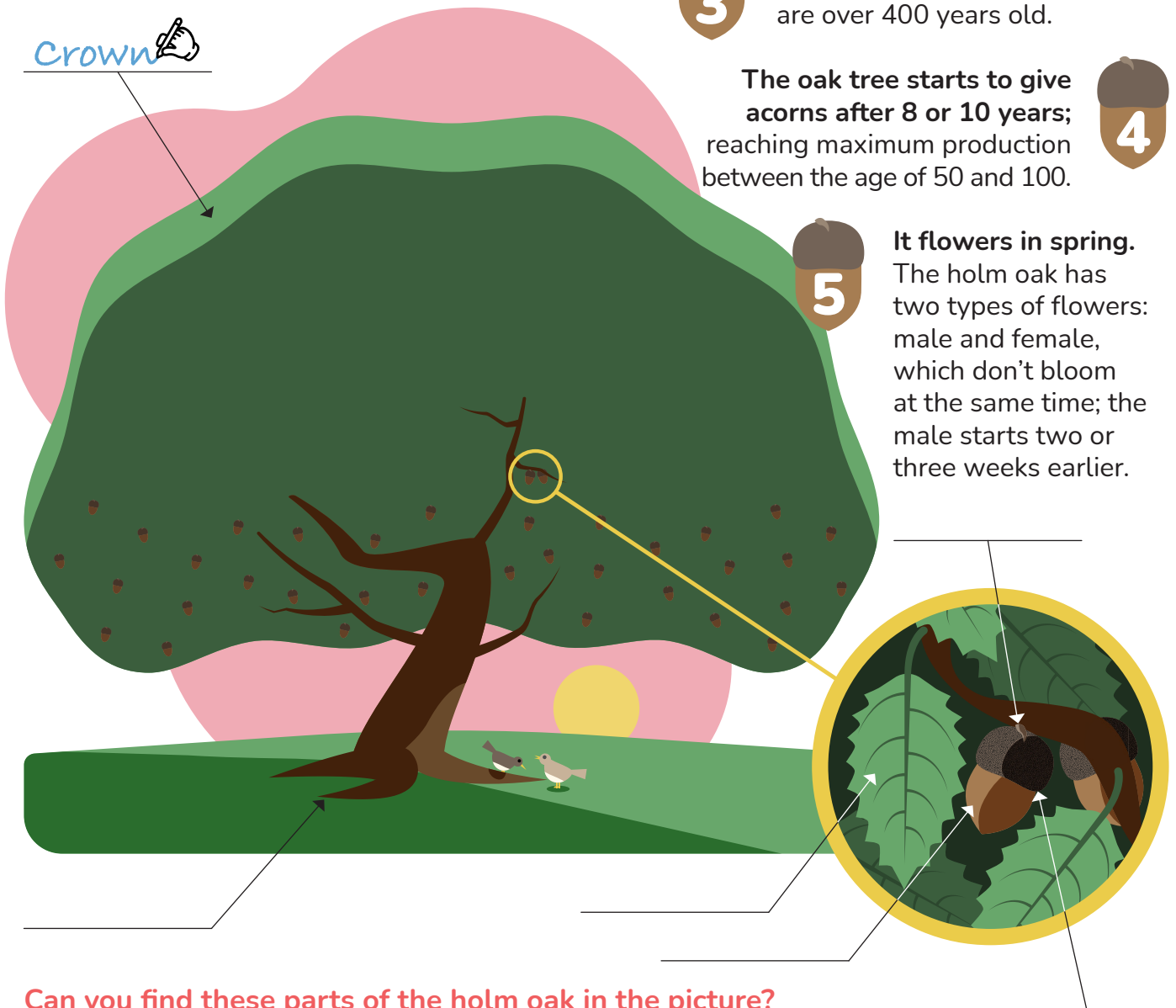
It's a centuries-old tree. Some of our holm oaks are over 400 years old.



The oak tree starts to give acorns after 8 or 10 years; reaching maximum production between the age of 50 and 100.



It flowers in spring. The holm oak has two types of flowers: male and female, which don't bloom at the same time; the male starts two or three weeks earlier.



Can you find these parts of the holm oak in the picture?

- 1. Crown.** Full, rounded, and dense.
- 2. Leaves.** Evergreen, so they give shelter from the cold and rain in winter and from the heat in summer.
- 3. Roots.** They avoid soil erosion.
- 4. The acorn is its fruit.** It has a shell that protects the seed. It's very healthy and full of energy. It contains carbohydrates, water, proteins, and fats, as well as magnesium, calcium, and phosphorus. Find the parts that make it up in the enlarged picture: **Peduncle, cupule, and fruit.**

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We look after the Dehesa

The regeneration of woodland is fundamental for guaranteeing the future of the dehesa. The acorns from the holm oaks seem to be designed to fall near the tree and germinate there.

Today, it's your turn! Help us to look after the dehesa by planting an acorn at home. After a while, you'll be able to transplant your holm oak in a field.

You'll need:

1. An acorn.
2. A clean milk container..
3. Soil.

Instructions

1. Collect some acorns from the dehesa. Choose the brownest and shiniest ones.
2. Cut off the top part of a milk container.
3. Wash it well and fill it with soil.
4. Put the acorn about an inch down into the soil.
5. Place your milk container in a sunny place and water it.

Watch it grow. First the root will grow, and then the shoot.
Did you know that the root can grow more than 1 meter in a year?

