

Today we are looking at *Lob*

What do you imagine *Lob* to look like?

What kind of character does he have?

What kind of questions could you ask to find out more?

Some people suggest that *Lob* could be a little bit like the 'Green Man'.



The Green Man is a mythical figure often portrayed as a mask made entirely of leaves. Typically, Green Man figures are carved in stone or wood; they may also be crafted in stained glass or inked in the

style of illuminated manuscripts. In pre-Christian religions, trees were sacred and forest groves were dwelling places of gods and nature spirits. In Celtic mythology, the Green Man is a god of spring and summer who disappears and returns year after year. This apparent death and resurrection may be why many Christian churches are also decorated with his image.

Many trees have old stories that have grown up with them. The stories are based on something interesting or unusual about the tree. They often talk about the tree as though it were a person. Included in this resource are stories about three of our native trees.



Tree name	Draw a leaf from this tree
Draw the shape of the whole tree	Draw a flower, fruit or seed from this tree
	Do a rubbing of the bark-texture on a separate piece of paper

If you are planning a walk with someone in your family over the next couple of days, look out for a special tree you may pass along the way. Alternatively, you could look out of your window or research a tree of your choice online.

Now try and combine the parts of your drawn tree to create your own Green Man?

Then have a look at some of the tree stories on the next page.



Tree stories

Yew

Yew trees are a very dark green colour. An old folk-tale tells why yews are dressed so darkly.

Many moons ago, the yew tree was very sad. It thought all other trees were more beautiful. Their colourful leaves could flutter in the wind but the yew only had stiff needles. The tree thought that the fairies had made it unattractive on purpose!

The fairies felt sorry for the yew so they changed its needles into gold leaves. This made the yew happy. But robbers came and stole all the gold leaves, leaving it very sad again. So, the fairies gave it lovely crystal leaves which sparkled in the sunlight. But a storm came and the crystals were smashed in to tiny pieces. Then the fairies gave it broad, green leaves to wave in the air. This time, they were eaten by goats! The yew then realised that the dark green needles were really the best because they stayed forever, didn't smash, get eaten or taken. The yew was happy again with the clothes that it was always meant to have.

Alder

The leaf-buds of the alder are a deep purple colour. There is an ancient myth that seeks to explain this unusual colour.

Alder used to be known as the best wood to make whistles and pipes. The music played on these pipes was said to be very beautiful. The topmost branch of the alder became known as the 'singing head' of the ancient raven-god Bran. This tree became Bran's special, sacred tree. It is said that the colour of the leaf buds is 'royal purple' in honour of Bran. The leaves are still used today to make beautiful dyes.

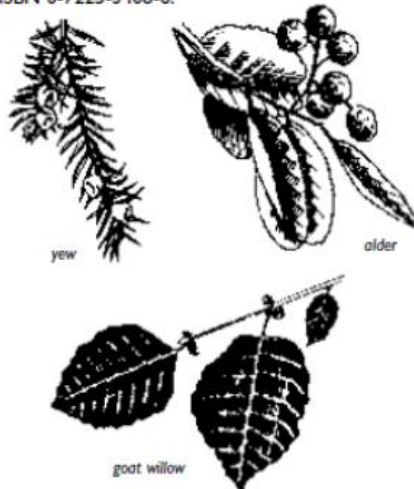
Goat Willow

The Goat Willow is more a bush than a tree. It has round shaped leaves which are silver underneath. Its large catkin-buds look like cats' tails hence it being commonly known as pussy willow.

On female trees the silver catkins turn to grey spiky flowers. On male trees they turn bright yellow and are full of pollen. Druids used to cut wands from male goat-willow trees as they thought that the change from silver to gold was magical. They used them to protect themselves against evil and would both carry them and place them in their homes.

Other tree stories can be found in: 'A Tree in Your Pocket' by Jacqueline Memory Paterson ISBN 0-7225-3778-6 www.thorsons.com

'Tree Wisdom' by the same author. ISBN 0-7225-3408-6.



1. Which story did you enjoy the most? Why?

2. Now try and write a short description of your tree.

Extension:

Write a short story about your own researched tree.