

Absolutely Tree-ific

If you had money, a big house with lots of land and lived two hundred years ago, then the fashionable thing to collect was... trees. Not any old trees either; they had to come from overseas, the more unusual the better. Foreign trees were a real status symbol! Brave plant collectors and explorers travelled all over the world looking for exotic trees that could be grown in Britain. Thanks to them, tree collections like the arboretum at Dalzell are full of brilliant trees from across the globe.

You can be a plant hunter too, but you don't have to travel the world.

Walk around the arboretum at Dalzell and see if you can find the six trees described in the boxes around this map.

They all live in the woodlands in front of Dalzell House, on either side of the main drive. There's a real mixture of foreign and native trees – some are evergreen (they keep their leaves in winter) and others are deciduous (the leaves fall from the trees in autumn and new ones grow in the spring).

When you've found the six trees fill in the blank spaces – what is the tree called or where does it come from? Then draw a line from each box to the map to show where in the world each type of tree came from.

The botanical names of the trees are in brackets; they might help you identify the different trees.

Here are the missing words.

North Africa (Algeria and Morocco)

Red oak

North America (California)

Cedar of Lebanon

Black Poplar

UK and Europe



1

Name: Atlas cedar
(*Cedrus atlantica*)

A tall tree with needle-like evergreen leaves.

Comes from:

Discovered: 1827 by P.B. Webb



6

Name: Hornbeam
(*Carpinus betulus*)

A deciduous tree with dark green oval leaves which turn yellow and orange before they fall in the autumn.

Comes from:



2

Name:
(*Quercus borealis*)

A large deciduous tree with ridges down the bark which look as if they have shiny stripes.

Comes from: North America



3

Name: Wellingtonia
(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

A very tall evergreen with rusty-red bark. Wellingtonias growing in their native country are amongst the tallest and oldest trees.

Comes from:

Introduced to Britain: 1853 by William Lobb



4

Name:
(*Cedrus libani*)

An evergreen with grey-green needle-like leaves. The branches grow in layers up the length of the tree.

Comes from: Lebanon



5

Name:
(*Populus nigra*)

A deciduous tree with leaves the same shape as the Ace of Spades!

Comes from: UK and Europe