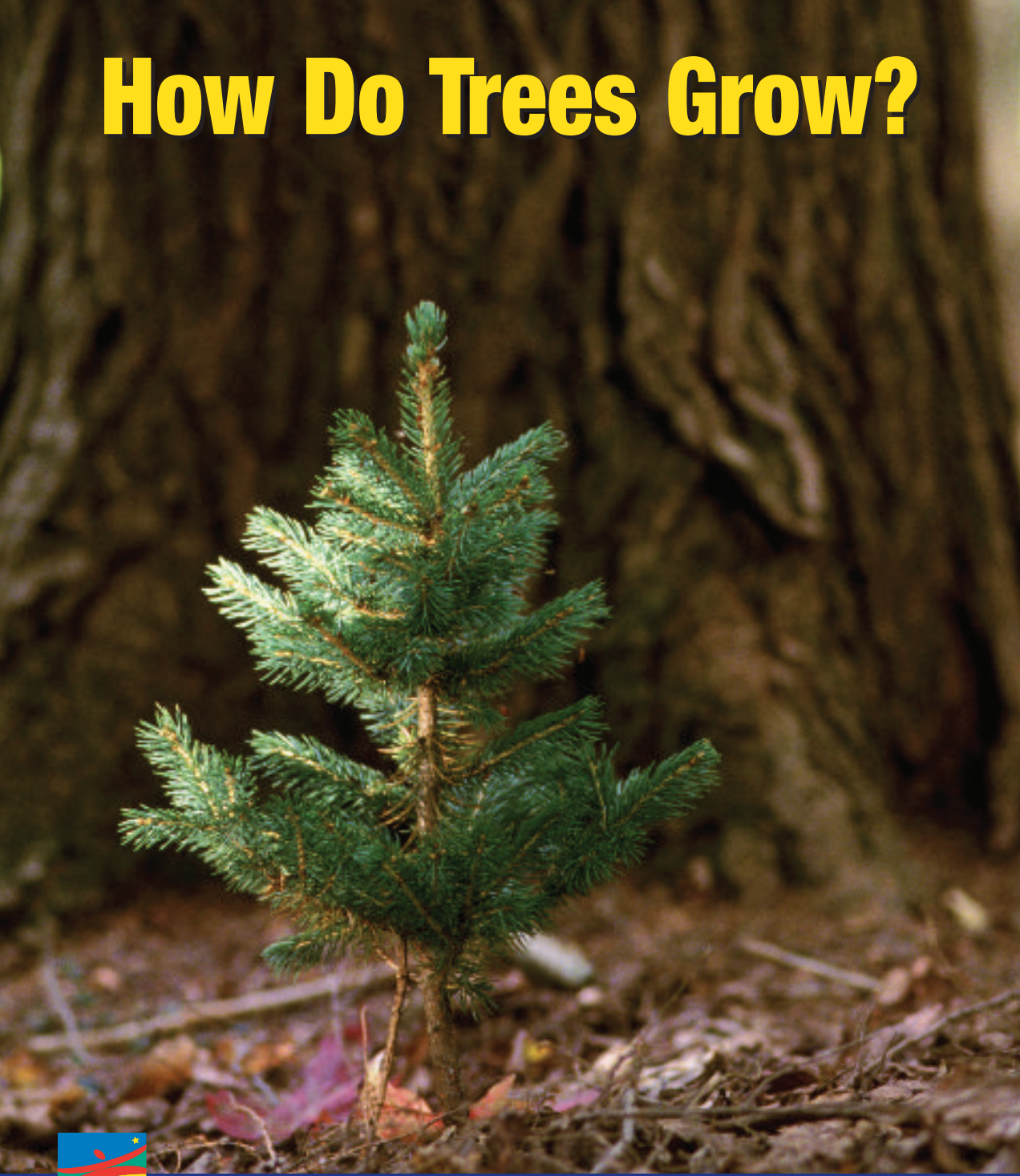
How Do Trees Grow?



by Christina Riska

Benchmark EDUCATION

Level 28 M Word Count: 281*

The Big Idea

This book tells about the life cycle of a tree.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading:
- Retell what you have read

Comprehension:
- Identify sequence of events

Phonics:
- r-controlled o (acorn, for, forests, more, orchards)

Fluency:
- Read with appropriate pacing

Tier Two Vocabulary:
- scatter

Tier Three Vocabulary:
- acorn, bark, branches, root, sapling, seedlings, seeds, shoot, sprout, trunk

Grammar, Word Study, and Language Development:
- Ask and answer questions
- Use context clues

Sentence Pattern:
- ___ need ___.

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count for this book.

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Credits:
Editors: Vicki Rushworth and David Haggerty
Creative Director: Jonette Jakobson
Photo Editor: Lynne Shulhafer

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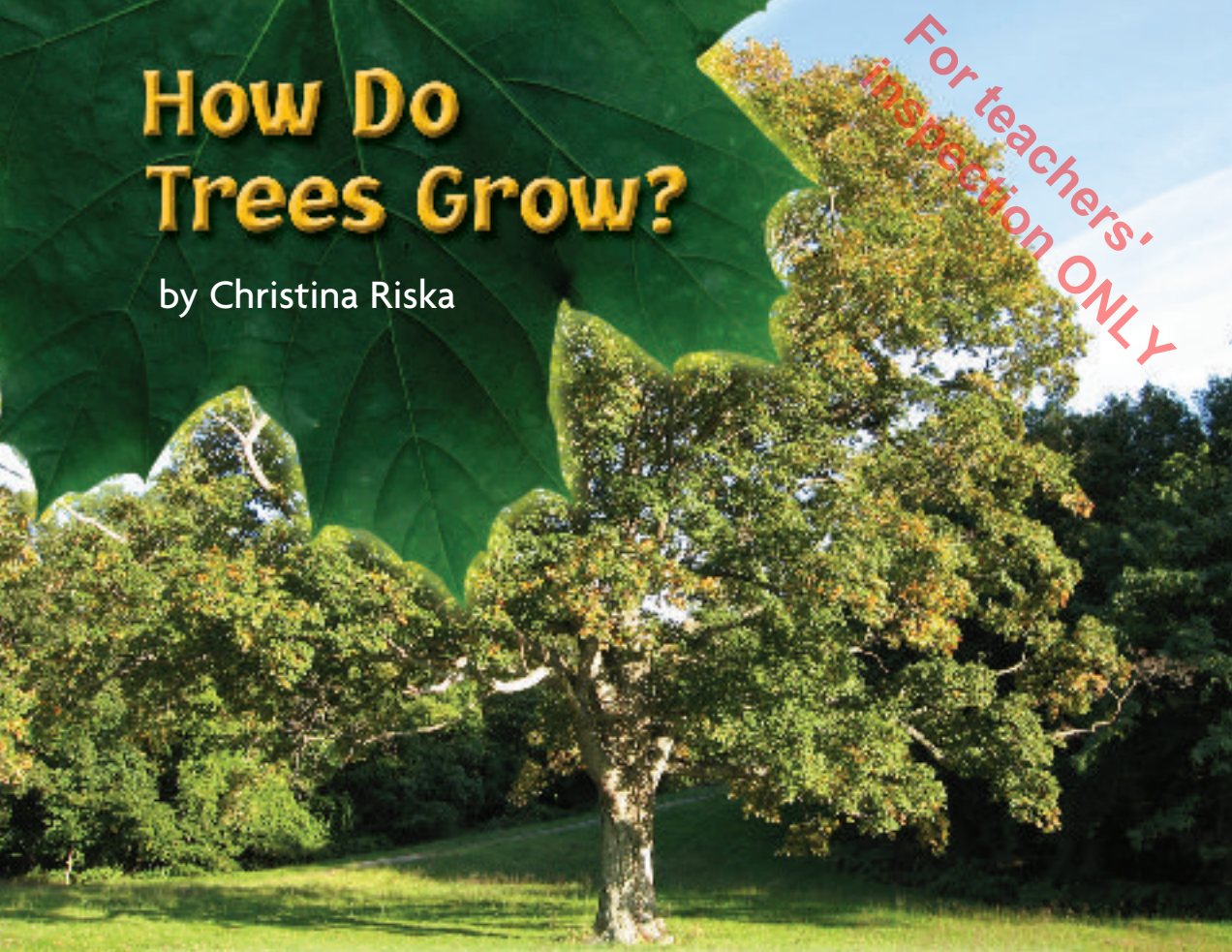
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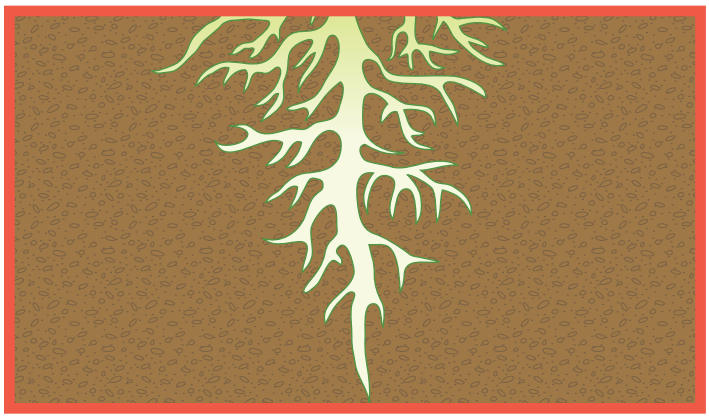
I need to know these words.

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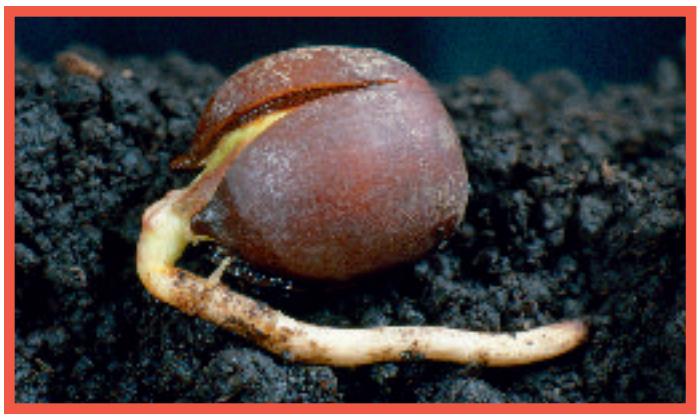
acorn



root



seed



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shoot



sprout



trunk



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What Are Trees?

What plants are around you? Look at a flower. You can hold a flower in your hand. Walk by a bush. What type of leaves does the bush have? Stand by a tree. Trees grow taller than you.

Some trees are small and wide. Some trees are taller than a big building. Trees are the largest plants in the world. They can be hundreds of feet tall! All trees grow from **seeds**.



The oldest giant sequoia is more than 3,000 years old. The oldest giant sequoia is over 200 feet tall. ▶


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Did You Know?
Trees grow in different climates. Some trees need hot climates. Some trees need wet climates.

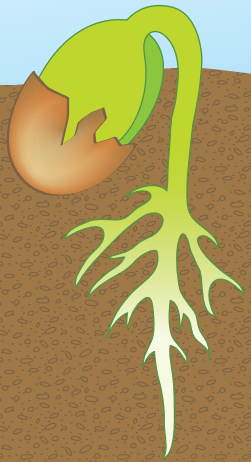
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How Does a Seed Grow into a Tree?

Have you ever opened the shell of an acorn? A nut is inside the acorn. The nut is the seed. Wind and rain scatter seeds. Some seeds stay on the ground. Those seeds begin to grow.

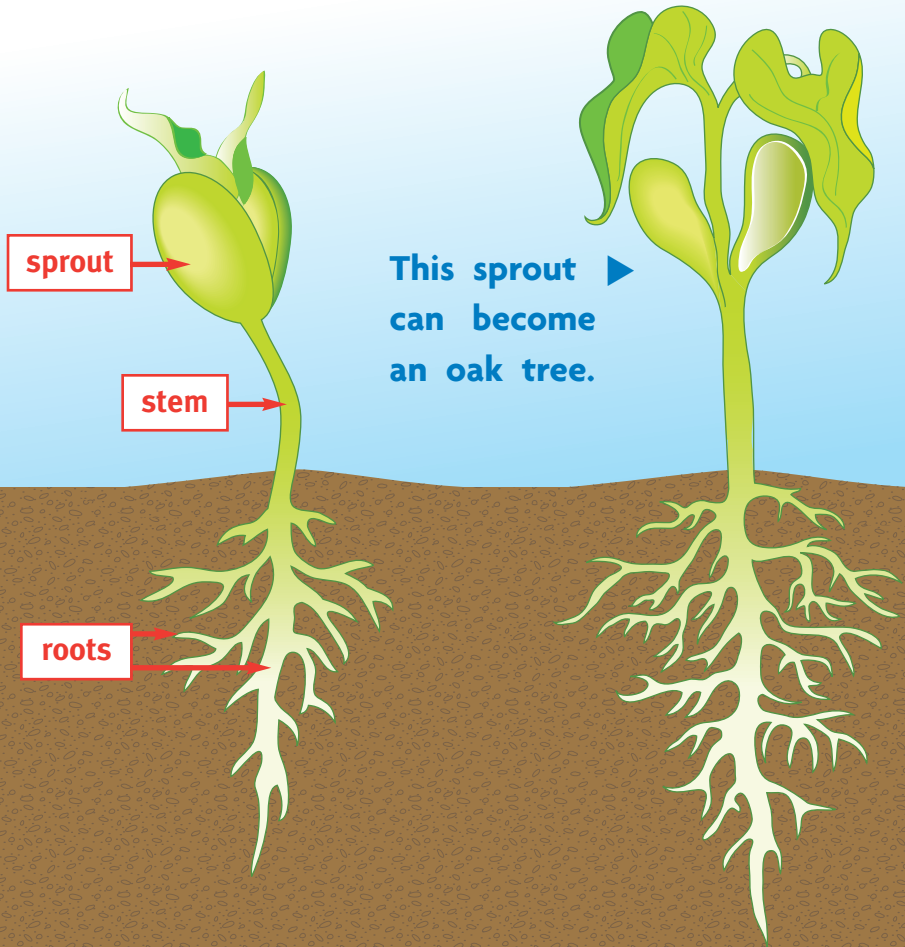


◀ An acorn is a type of seed. Acorns grow on oak trees.



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A seed grows when the **environment** is right. First, a **root** and a stem grow. The root grows into the soil. The root holds the seed in place. The stem grows toward the sun. The seed becomes a **sprout**.



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The sprout is not a tree yet. How does the sprout grow? The sprout changes under the ground. The roots grow deeper into the soil. You can see the sprout changing above the ground. A **shoot** grows out of the stem. The stem is soft. Leaves grow. Now the tree is a seedling.

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The seedling grows taller and stronger. Now the tree is a sapling. Bark is on the stem. You can feel the hard bark. The bark feels like wood. The stem will become the trunk of the tree.



In Their Words

**"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree."
—Joyce Kilmer**

◀ This oak sapling will grow into an oak tree.