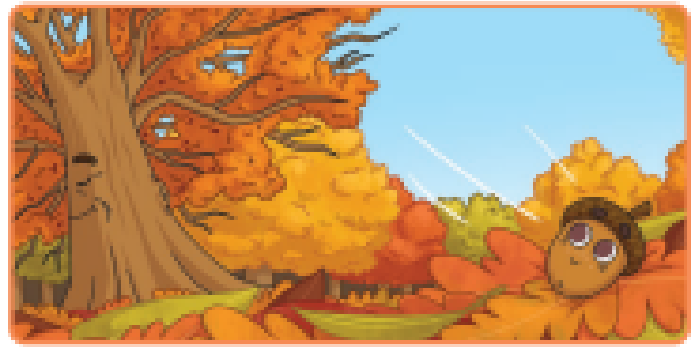


Little Acorns

A little brown acorn falls down to the ground on a chilly but beautiful day. The crisp autumn leaves gently cushion his fall and for now, that is where he will stay.



A squirrel comes by on the hunt for some food and the little brown acorn is found. The squirrel needs acorns when winter arrives so she hides him away underground.

The weather grows colder as winter draws in and the forest is covered with snow.

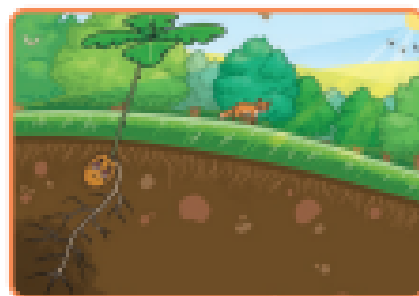
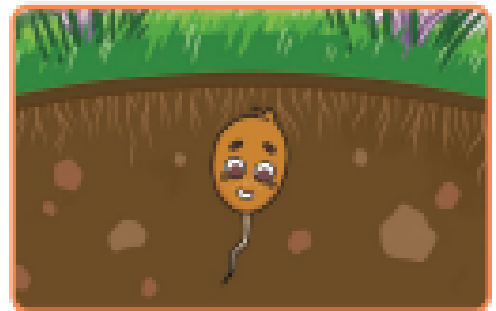
The acorn stays buried alone in the ground as he waits for the right time to grow.

As winter moves on, all the snow disappears and the signs of new life can be seen.

The birds make their nests as the leaves start to grow and the forest is painted in green.

Now springtime is here and the weather's warmed up so the acorn can push down a root.

A little while later, held tight in his spot, he is ready to send up a shoot.



By now, he's a seedling with many small roots that can suck up the water below. His leaves start to form in the warm summer months as the sun shines and helps him to grow.

The little green sapling grows taller each day as the years and the seasons go by.

As time marches on, he becomes a small tree, with his limbs reaching out for the sky.



Now many years later, he's reached a great height and he stands up so mighty and strong.

His branches have grown, stretching out all around, and his roots are incredibly long.

He acts as a shelter that's cosy and safe for the animals needing a bed. The hole in his trunk is a welcoming spot for a creature to lay down its head.



The tree's now an adult that's ready for change and the buds on his branches are here.

Then after a while, all the buds open up and his colourful flowers appear.

When all of the flowers have dropped from the tree, his very first acorns arrive.

They spring from the branches, inside their round cups; they are tiny but ready to thrive.



When autumn returns, bringing yellow and red, all the leaves become crinkly and dry.

The acorns get bigger and slowly turn brown as they sit on their branches up high.

The little brown acorns fall down to the ground on a chilly but beautiful day.

The crisp autumn leaves gently cushion their fall and for now, that is where they will stay.



Questions

1. Which season is it at the beginning of the story? **Tick one.**

- summer
 winter
 autumn

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

	The acorn grows a root and a shoot.
1	A squirrel buries the acorn underground.
	The tree is now an adult.
	The acorn becomes a seedling.

3. Fill in the missing word.

By now, he's a seedling with many small _____.

acorns

roots

flowers

4. When all the flowers have dropped from the tree, what happens next?

5. Circle one word that shows that the acorns are growing.

The acorns get bigger and slowly turn brown.