

Open cloze. Write only one word per blank.



ancient irish traditions: the tree of life

The word *druid* comes from the ancient Gaelic phrase "They Who Know the Oak"

The Tree of Life

If you have _____ watched a movie that had trees of magic, with secret doorways that _____ to mysterious places, give a little 'thank you' to the ancient Celtic peoples. Trees were a very large part of the Celts' spiritual and daily _____. Celts regarded trees as their source of food, protection from the elements, provider of materials to _____ shelters, and a source of warmth _____ making fire with its wood. While walking through a forest hearing

the leaves rustle, Celts could easily equate trees and the forest with an omnipotent being. From that belief rises an important and powerful symbol – the Tree of Life.

'They Who Know the Oak'

The most sacred tree of _____ was the Oak, which represented the axis mundi. It was the center of the world and the connection _____ Heaven and Earth. The Celtic name for oak, *daur*, is the _____ of the word door. The root of the oak was the doorway to the Otherworld, the realm of Fairy. The word *Druid*, the name of the Celtic Priestly class, is compounded from the words _____ "oak" (*daur*) and "to know" (*wid*) – literally "they who know the oak". So the druids were in _____ those who were learned in Tree magic and guardian of the doorway.

Marcasite Tree of Life Earrings



Long after the Druids, the lore of trees continued _____ a vital part of Celtic myth and folklore. So today Trees are _____ guarded as sacred wells and _____ thought to provide healing, shelter, and wisdom. Trees carried messages to the _____ realm and conferred blessings. In Ireland today, sometimes trees in the countryside _____ been adorned with ribbons and pleas for favours, love, healing, and prosperity. The Celtic alphabet, Ogham, is even a homage to trees: _____ letter of the Ogham alphabet represents a particular type of tree.