

Open cloze. Write only one word per blank.



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.