

Open cloze. Write only one word per blank.

Ireland has _____ been a place filled with fascinating folklore and stories. One very interesting folklore surrounds those of the mystical Irish Fairy trees. All around Ireland, there are many Fairy trees that are believed to be the home of the fairies or the "wee folk" as people like to call them, as it is thought that they don't like _____ referred to as fairies.

Even today in Ireland the Irish Fairy trees still carry a lot of superstitious. Many Irish people wish _____ to disturb the Fairy trees as it is said to bring bad luck to _____ that do.

What are Fairy Trees?

Fairy trees in Ireland are known as either Hawthorn trees or Ash trees. What _____ these Irish Fairy trees different from other trees is their location. Usually, the Fairy tree is alone in the middle of the field or on the side of a road. The trees can be easy to find as _____ as you know what you're looking for. You will _____ often find Fairy trees at ancient sites or at holy wells around Ireland.

The hawthorn tree is best described as a small, bushy tree that can _____ up to six metres high. The tree can also _____ to an impressive age of four hundred years old.

The hawthorn tree is thought to be a sacred meeting place for the fairies and cutting _____ a lone hawthorn tree is avoided at _____ costs. The Fairy trees are believed to bring luck to their owners and bring prosperity to the land _____ they lay. Many people who visit the fairy trees leave prayers, gifts and personal items as a token of good gesture in _____ hope of receiving good fortune or healing in return from the 'wee folk'.

You might be wondering _____ the hawthorn tree actually became to be known as a fairy tree? Well, with the tree blooming in spring, it was associated with the festival of Beltane. This was an important time for the ancient Irish as _____ as the Sidhe. (The fairy people).

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Beltane is referenced throughout some of the earliest Irish literature and has _____ associated with important events in Irish mythology.

Superstitions associated with Fairy Trees in Ireland

It is believed that the 'fairy folk' had enchanting powers where they could outwit humankind whenever they wished. They symbolised a combination of _____ good and evil. The fairy folk could easily bless someone or _____ bad luck over them. They harboured both fortune and misfortune and this _____ the 'wee folk' a lot of respect.

Many people _____ said to be frightened of upsetting them due to the magical powers they had. People also believe that if you cut _____ or damage one of the Irish Fairy trees, you _____ face a lifetime of misfortune.

Irish people _____ the superstitions of Fairy trees very seriously. In fact, there was even a delay in building a motorway for over 10 years because people didn't want to harm one of the fairy trees.

Some Fairy trees are also located on the land of farmers, who would go to great lengths to _____ sure the trees were protected. They would pile boulders around the base of the tree _____ that there would be no accidental damage caused. It is also thought that the fairies are the greatest protector of Irish archaeology, another reason _____ farmers refuse to remove them.

Fairy Forts in Ireland

There are also hundreds of 'fairy forts" still found in Ireland today; many have not been disturbed due to the superstitions that are associated with them. Such as you don't want to touch the home of the fairies or they might take revenge _____ you.

The "Fairy Forts" in Ireland are also known as Ring forts, a circular enclosed surrounding by an earthen or stone bank. They were originally designed to protect cattle during the night from cattle raiders. _____ time people moved into more open spaces and it is believed that the fairies made these ring forts their new homes. And so, they were _____ the name as "Fairy Forts".

Fairy Trees in Irish Folklore

Ireland is filled _____ fascinating folklore stories, nothing is as enchanting as those associated with the Irish Fairy trees. Even today folklore stories related to Fairy trees are a popular discussion.

Irish folklore tells us that the Fairy trees are a getaway for the two _____ worlds to collide, the mortal world and other-world of fairies.

The Fairy Faith

During ancient times in Ireland, there was a thing known as fairy faith, yes, the belief in all things' fairies. It all started when the Milesians took _____ in a mythical race in the 11th century that saw them come to Ireland. The Milesians were Gaels who sailed from Hispania to Ireland after hundreds of years travelling around the earth.

When the Milesians arrived in Ireland, they banished the natives to the underground or other-world as it was also known. The natives become known as the Sidhe, the fairy folk who lived underground; living _____ the trees and bushes.

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It is believed that the Fairy folk had many ways of getting to the otherworld's through the base of Fairy trees, through burial mounds and even underwater. These getaways became very important to the fairy folk to easily move _____ the two worlds, and so became protected by magic powers.



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