

Vilsbøl

1)

This wood has many names. One of them is "The Squares". The name is due to the fact that, in the beginning, different tree-species were planted in squares of 20 x 20 metres - one tree-species for each square.

Once, there was rich agriculture soil here, and it belonged to the manor Nebel. However, in the years 15-1600, the sand drifted in from the West and covered the fields like an eiderdown, and at last, people had to give up on cultivating the soil. Therefore, the soil is covered with woods today.

When do you think, this tree was planted?

1) 1880

X) 1900

2) 1930

2)

This bush is an old Danish tree-species, which belongs to the Sycamore family.

It is quite common on the islands, especially in brushes and in wood edges.

Here in Thy it is most likely found as hedges in our gardens.

What is the name of the bush?

1) Common Maple

X) Ash

2) Maple

3)

Try to rub the leaves. If there aren't any on the tree, pick up one from below the tree. It feels like two days old stubble.

A way to remember this tree is to think of it as the most unshaved tree in the wood.

This tree is found anywhere in the open countryside, planted in fences or around farms.

The tree-species is threatened by a disease - a fungus that is spread by bugs from tree to tree. Therefore, you will find dead trees both in the woods and in the countryside.

The tree is an:

1) Elm

X) Alder

2) Oak

4)

Nors Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in the country.

It is a "Karst-lake" - which means a lake that lies on a lime-ground, and which gets the most of its water from submerged sources through cracks in the lime. This type of lakes is quite rare in Denmark.

In the lake, one can find pikes, perches, leverets and eels. You can buy a fishing license for a certain part of the lake, either at the state forest district or at the tourist office.

Nors Lake has been thoroughly examined, and it is that lake in Denmark, where most different species living on the bottom are found.

How deep is the lake at the deepest spot?

- 1) 14 m
- X) 18 m
- 2) 22 m

5)

Turn right here and follow the trail for about 30 metres, until you find a tree with a hole through it.

The tree is an aspen. It once fell, but it has survived by sending more new stems up from the fallen stem.

“Hole-trees” played an important role in the old times’ superstition.

People thought, that one could cure diseases by crawling through a hole in a tree, or by pulling the sick person through the hole.

One disease in particular was meant to be cured this way.

The name of the disease is...

- 1) Influenza
- X) Tuberculosis
- 2) Rickets

6)

The forest floor here is covered by ferns. This fern is called Male fern. It is the biggest and the most common fern in Denmark.

The plant is poisonous and was until recently used for medicine to cure tapeworm.

Ferns are spore plants. They do not breed through seeds, but by spores, which are inside “spore houses” on the plant.

Where can you find the spore houses on the fern?

- 1) On the stems
- X) On the back of the leaves
- 2) On the roots

7)

Try to go down into the soil pit that you will find behind you.

At the bottom of the pit, you will find writing chalk. This is the underground of Thy. Above the chalk, there is a dark, greasy layer. Try to feel it - it’s clay.

Above the thin stratum of clay, there’s only sand. It is Shifting sand, which has been swept up by the sea and blown in over the land. You can feel, that it is sand, because it is more scratchy than greasy.

On top lies the peat, consisting of leaves, roots and other parts of plants.

The writing chalk in Thy’s underground was formed...

- 1) 1 million years ago
- X) 10 million years ago
- 2) 60 million years ago

8)

The bush that spreads out here is related to ordinary elder.
However, this one has a yellow pith, while ordinary elder has a white pith.

You will also see a difference in the berries. This one has beautiful red berries, that hang in clusters, while the ordinary elder has black berries.

What is the name of the bush?

- 1) Summer elder
- X) Grape elder
- 2) Guelder Rose

9)

We have mounted a small hill, and notice that the tall fir trees are almost missing here.

This is due to the storm in November 1981 - one of the most powerful storms that we have experienced in Denmark. Many of the trees were pulled up with their roots, even though they were solidly planted in the underground chalk.

When you move forward, you can still see many of the roots along the path.

What do we call it, when the storm cuts trees in a large area?

- 1) A gust
- X) Windfalls
- 2) A fall of the wind

10)

Notice the many resin blisters on the cortex. Try puncturing one of them with a nail. It is pure perfume, and it is difficult to wash off.

The tree-species comes from North-western America, like many other tree species in Danish forestry.

It grows very fast, and where it really thrives, it can grow very big.

Its Danish name is..

- 1) Kæmpegran
- X) Hvidgran
- 2) Blæregran

11)

“Woodbine” is the name of this twiner.
It smells wonderful, when it blooms in July-August.

But it is a real villain towards the young fir-trees that it does its best to keep down.

An old saying goes, that if you put the first Woodbine-leaf in you wallet, it will never be empty.

Which way does Woodbine twine?

- 1) To the left
- X) To the right
- 2) Sometimes left and sometimes right

12)

Notice how close the young fir-trees crowd underneath the old ones.

Where do they come from? Were they...

1) Planted

X) Sown

2) Or did they grow up naturally, by the old silver firs spreading their seeds

13)

This silver fir is a little more than 100 years old.

If we cut it, we would have problems selling it, since practically no sawmills have saws, that are big enough to cut it into planks.

That is, among other things why we leave it be. But we also keep it because it is nice to be able to look at such tall an beautiful trees.

For many years, cones were reaped from this fir-tree among others. The seeds were planted in a forest nursery, where they make new plant-out trees. So when you see silver fir-trees in the different woods of the country, they may very well be the children of this old tree.

How tall is the tree?

1) About 22 metres

X) About 26 metres

2) About 30 metres