

Willow

What is willow?

Willow is a deciduous tree, which means it sheds its leaves in winter. Willow originates from China, but grows throughout the northern hemisphere. Willow grows best in moist soil and direct sunlight. Flowering takes place in early spring; the flowers are rich in nectar and attract many insects for pollination. Willow trees can absorb large quantities of water, so they are an ideal tree to plant in areas which are at risk of flooding.

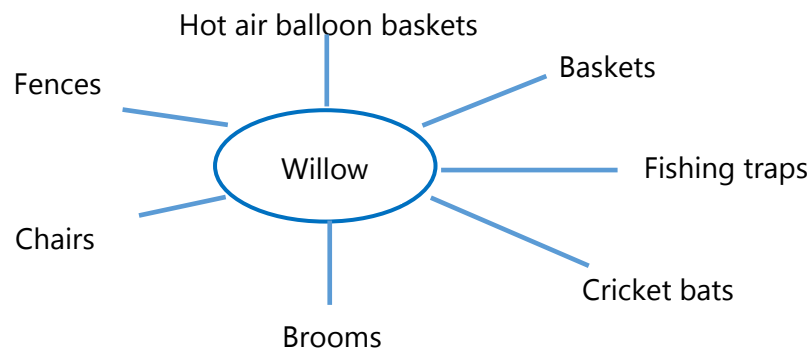
How can you weave with willow?

Willow is very special because it has lots of watery bark sap. To weave with willow, it must first be soaked in water for a few days. The willow will store the water, making it bendy and flexible to weave with. Over the next few days, the willow will slowly dry, slightly shrink and will then keep the shape that you weaved it into.

What is willow used for?

Willow has been used to create goods for thousands of years. Some items are weaved together, others are carved or constructed.

How were these items made...carved or weaved?



FACT

A small compound found in the bark of willow is used to make a very important medicinal drug called aspirin.



Harvested willow



FACT

Raindrops that fall to the ground from the drooping branches of willow resemble tears. That is how the weeping willow got its name.