

# Tree Reporters

# MAGAZINE

Volume 5

Incredible  
tree-secrets!



I wish someone would at least stand  
by and tell me about their day.

I ♥ GLOBE

# Contributors

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'Make like a tree and leave',  
Mr Oak, the first one to take legal action against linguists. 'I refuse to be used as  
mere throwaway phrase!'

Mr hedgehog slightly offended  
by the sight of Miss Birches bare  
bark!

'Stop getting all up in our tree  
business all the time, 'say trees in the  
Amazon rainforest!

# GLOBE REPORTERS

SCANDALOUS!

4000 - year-old tree still  
without a bus pass!

• December 31

• 2024

• SOŠP GLOBE TEAM

# European ash

*Fraxinus excelsior L.*

Good day everyone! We are Jelena and Tia from High School Čakovec and this is Jožek the European ash.

Q: Hi Jožek how are you doing?

A: Well, I've been feeling kinda blue lately, my leaves keep falling, I wish the sun would come out.

Q: So autumn isn't your favorite?

A: Not really, but I LOVE summer! The warmth, the birds singing, the kids playing...

Q: Do you like being so close to our school?

A: Totally! The students passing often listen to music, so I get to know the most popular hits.

Q: Do you have a favorite song?

A: Absolutely, my dearest is Don't you forget about me from Simple Minds.

Q: That's wonderful! Thank you so much for your time. Have a great day!

A: No problem! If you need anything else, I'll be here.



# The Orange Tree: A Garden's Treasure

*Today, I'm thrilled to share an interview with the magnificent orange tree growing in my neighbour's garden. I've always admired this tree, especially when it's full with vibrant, sweet fruit.*

Q. Do you provide any vitamins?

A. Yes I provide vitamin C, fiber, potassium, phosphorus and B vitamins for the body.

Q. Why are you important?

A. I am important because orange trees are widely grown in tropical and subtropical areas for their sweet fruit.

Q. What is special about oranges?

A. Oranges are high in fibre and beneficial vitamins, like vitamin C

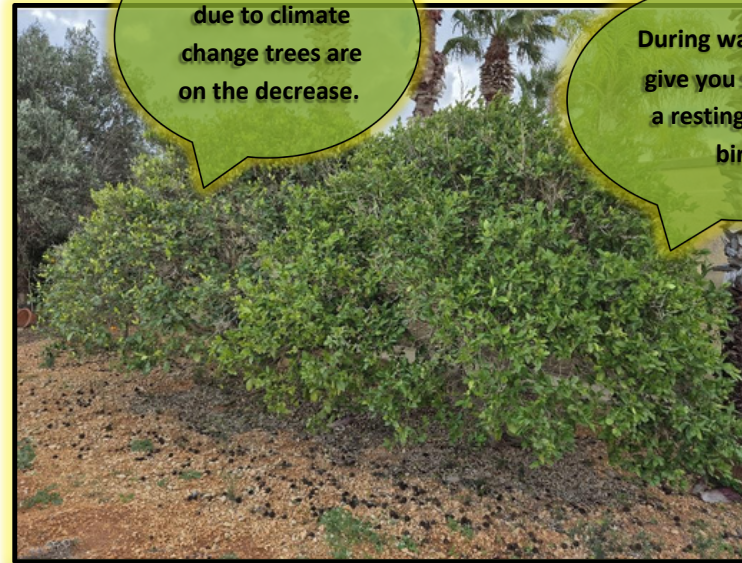
Q. How long do oranges live?

A. They live in room temperature, oranges can last for about a week. In the fridge, meanwhile, they can stay good for about a month.

Q. Why is an orange called orange?

A. It is called orange because of the appearance of the ripe orange fruit!





Unfortunately,  
due to climate  
change trees are  
on the decrease.

During warm days, I  
give you shade and  
a resting place for  
birds.

## *Time to Interview a Tree*



I need water, good  
air, light and  
sunlight to grow up  
and survive.

I give you oxygen  
and absorb  
carbon dioxide.



GLOBE Tree Reporter Liam Frank Buttigieg, Year 8 Ruby  
Gozo College Agius de Soldanis Middle School Victoria

# INTERVIEW WITH A TREE



THE GLOBE REPORTERS OF THE EDMONDO DE AMICIS SCHOOL INTERVIEW THEIR FRIEND IN THE GARDEN



Today the GLOBE reporters of the Leonardo da Vinci Secondary School are going to interview a great friend, which is located in the school garden, on the southern side. Their friend is called Ricciolo and it's a curly maple, also known as Acer platanoides.

The GLOBE reportes of 2°A class look at their friend every day, as it lives just in front of their classroom. During the school year they can admire the opening of the buds in the spring season, the leaves' growing in late spring, the yellowing of its canopy in Autumn and the dormant buds in winter.

So, let's listen to what Ricciolo tells about its life.

**-What's your name?**

My common name is Norway Maple, but my scientific name is Acer Platanoides. You can call me Ricciolo, it's easier and nicer!

**-How tall are you?**

I'm about 10 metres tall, I don't know exactly my height, since I'm a bit old... You can measure me through a clinometer, if you want.

**-Don't sat you're old, if anything tells us how old are you!**

Well, I'm about 40 years old! I was here when you were born and even when your parents were young children, I suppose! So, I've got a certain experience ..... If you measure my trunk circumference and then divide it by 2.5, you should get an idea of my age...

**-Well, let's try! I've just a rope and a tape measure..... Your circumference at 1.35 metres is approximately 98 cm, and.... divided by 2.5, we get 39.2 years, the age of a mature tree.**

**Students and teachers of this school say that you're the most beautiful tree of the garden, especially in Autumn, when you wear wonderful yellow, orange and red leaves!**

It's too kink of you! Every tree has its own beauty, you can find amazing features in all of us, in roots, or branches, or leaves or trunks and bark...you only have to notice carefully and observe with all your senses and you'll find beauty! Anyway, thank you very much! I'm glad to hear you love me!

**-We would like to ask you about your role in the environment.**

It's a very long story, but also an interesting one! Thanks to photosynthesis, which we do every day to produce nourishment, we capture carbon dioxide from the air and give out oxygen, that all living organisms use to breathe! And many animals use parts of our body to feed themselves, we are the first step of all the food chains on Earth! In short, we purify air from your waste! And trees of my species are the best in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere!

**-It's amazing! You're truly important for the environment!**

We also host animals, such as squirrels, ants and birds, and many insects...and when we die, we become food for microorganisms...Nothing is lost and everything in nature is recycled! Humans should always learn from nature!

**-We all have to thank you for your significant role on Earth! Can we do something to help you?**

Of course! First, you should try not to pollute the environment, with factories, cars, and other engines using fossil fuels, as they throw a great amount of carbon dioxide in the air. Then, you should reduce the use of paper and recycle it as much as you can... Finally, the best thing you can do to help nature is planting more and more trees!

**-We're very happy to know you much better! We'll always be your friend and we're going to do everything we can to protect nature and our wonderful Earth!**

**Thank you very much!**

**THE GLOBE REPORTERS SAY GOODBYE TO THEIR FRIEND AND WISH IT THE BEST FOR THE WINTER SEASON. THEY WILL MEET IT NEXT SPRING FOR A NEW AND EXCITING STORY!**



# Interview with a Carob Tree

**Globe Reporters:** *Good morning! Thanks for taking the time to talk to us!*

**Carob Tree:** It's my pleasure! I love interacting with new people. I'm really excited for this interview as I've never been interviewed before!

**GR:** *Well, since this is your very first interview, let's not keep you waiting. Now let's start! Could you tell us a bit about yourself and where you come from?*

**CT:** Certainly! My name is Ceratonia Siliqua, more commonly known as the Carob tree. I can reach heights of 15 meters. I'm one of the eldest trees and some of my friends are almost 750 years old. I originate from the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Areas.

**GR:** *That's quite interesting! If you could change something in the environment around you what would it be?*

**CT:** If I could change something, I'd ask for more space to grow, as the growing cities make it harder for me to thrive. I long for more open land and a bit more water during heat waves.



**GR:** *You've got a point there. You're mostly known around the world for your sweet pods. How long does it take for your pods to ripen and what kinds of foods are made with them?*

**CT:** My pods are sweet, and although they're not chocolate, they are often used to make carob syrup or powder, which is a healthier alternative to cocoa. My pods are typically harvested by local farmers in late summer to early autumn when they are fully ripe and have turned dark brown. It takes about 11-12 months for them to fully ripen.

**GR:** *That's very interesting. I didn't know about all your pod's uses. Now, tell me what your concerns are currently living in this area.*

**CT:** Although we are not endangered, I fear that habitat loss, excess human intervention and climate change would impact us carob trees greatly and our overall survival. Thank God we are tough and drought tolerant, which makes us well-suited to dry environment.

**GR:** *What do you think of climate change and humans role in it?*

**CT:** I have lived through many seasons, but the current pattern is troubling. The earth is warming, and the delicate balance of nature is being disrupted.

**GR:** *Thank you for your time and I hopefully we catch up during my next walk in the countryside.*





**Good morning tree. Thank you for accepting to take part in this interview.**

**Carob Tree: You're welcome. I'm happy that you are here in Lunzjata Valley, and I feel honored to be part of this interview.**

**Q. What kind of tree are you?**

**A. I am a carob tree, and I make fruit that looks like pods.**

**Q. What is your fruit used for?**

**A. The carob fruit is food for the animals and is also used in medicines.**

**Q. That's interesting. Do many people come to harvest fruit for your leaves?**

**A. Of course! Many come to harvest the carob fruit because Maltese and Gozitans use them to make a syrup called 'Gulepp'.**

**Q. What does it taste like and what is it used for?**

**A. The 'Gulepp' is very sweet and is used as a natural remedy for cough.**

**Q. May I ask you how old you are?**

**A. I am old indeed! I am more than 460 years old.**

**Q. That is incredible! What is the most precious memory you have?**

**A. This is a tough one, but I would say that my most precious memory is when the knights of St John and the courageous people of Malta and Gozo defeated the Ottoman Empire during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565.**

**Q. It is extraordinary that you have witnessed this significant part in the Maltese history. One last question – What advice would you give to the people of Malta and Gozo?**

**A. My advice would be to plant more trees and be kind to trees. I have witnessed extensive changes over the years, but not for the better. Remember that trees clean the air and produce oxygen. We are life!**

**GLOBE Tree Reporter Pedro Cardona, Year 6 Roses**

**Gozo College Zebbug Primary School**



Q. What type of tree are you?

A. I am an olive tree.

Q. How long have you been rooted?

A. I have been here 140 years.

Q. Wow that is a long! How do you feel about being here for 140 years?

A. I feel very tired, but I still feel active.

Q. When do people come pick your olives?

A. They come to pick my olives in September and October.

Q. What do they do with it?

A. They take it to a place where they squeeze the olives into oil.

Q. Do you have any friends?

A. Yes, I have two friends. I have an apple tree and an oak tree.

Q. Do you have any birds living on you?

A. Yes, I have two bird nests and the nests have a family of four each.



GLOBE Tree Reporter Marie Dimech, Year 6 Roses

Gozo College Zebbug Primary School

P. Where do you live?

T. Oh I live in a field.

P. Are you lonely?

T. No, I am not lonely because the birds are friends of mine.

P. What is your favourite season?

T. My favourite season is winter.

P. Why is winter your favourite season?

T. In winter the rain comes, and the grass gets green. That's why.

P. Do you make any fruits?

T. Yes, I make fresh oranges.

P. Do you hurt sometimes?

T. Yes, I hurt sometimes.

P. With what?

T. Sometimes when the cats put their claws in my trunk.



GLOBE Tree Reporter Paolos Zammit, Year 6 Roses

Gozo College Zebbug Primary School

# The Sandarac Gum Tree

## *Tetraclinis articulata*

### General Information

The sandarac gum tree is native to the Maltese islands, Spain and North Africa. It is now restricted to a few sites and is quite rare in Malta. The Gozo College Ġużé Aquilina Sannat Primary & Special Unit is one of these sites.

### Our National Tree

The sandarac gum tree is known locally as “*is-Sigra tal-Għargħar*”. It was listed as a threatened species in 1989 and crowned as the National Tree of Malta in 1992. It prefers to grow in maquis (sloping, rocky areas). The oldest tree in Malta is over 300 years old.

### Description

Sandarac gum tree can grow up to 15m in height and is evergreen. The leaves are elongated and scale-like and have a light, fruity, balsamic, frankincense-like fragrance. The tree bears both female and male cones. The female cones are woody and around 15mm long. Male cones are much smaller. The female cones contain small winged seeds, a feature that aids in their dispersal.





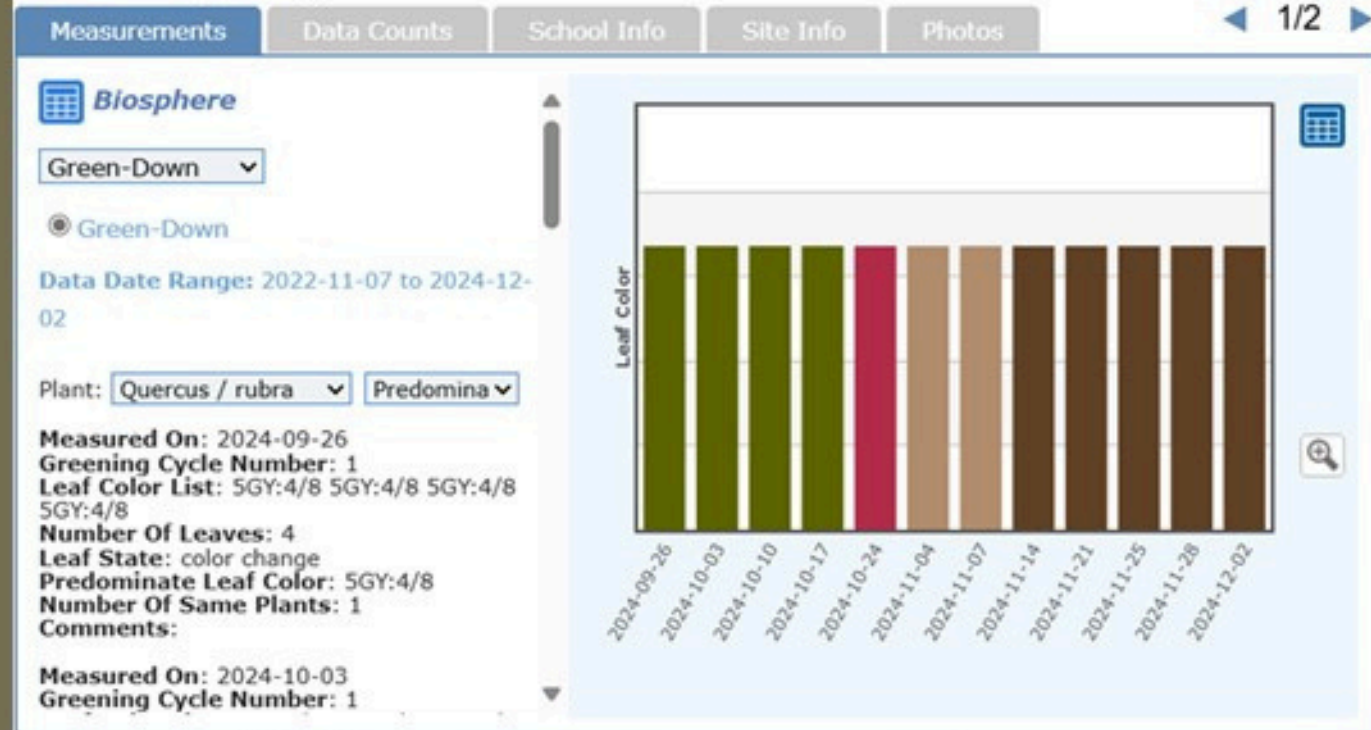
# CONVERSATION WITH AN OAK

- ▶ **Me:** Hello, Oak, how are you?  
**Oak:** Hello, I'm feeling a bit lost. Why are you asking?  
**Me:** I want to ask you something. Why did you drop your leaves so quickly?  
**Oak:** Why do you ask? No one has talked to me for years.  
**Me:** I'm a naturalist. I observe trees and collect information about you.  
**Oak:** Why did you choose me and not another oak?  
**Me:** You're a very beautiful oak. In autumn, your leaves turn red, yellow, and other bright colors. It's hard to take my eyes off you.  
**Oak:** I wasn't so lucky because they planted me in a place where no one passes by.  
**Me:** I don't think so! Children do not tear off your leaves. You should see what happens to other trees! The ground a meter around their trunks is bare—no leaves, no twigs—just the trunk.  
**Oak:** That's sad. Well, I'll tell you what happened. At first, things were fine. There was enough moisture, the sun was shining, the air was clean. But since September, it's been too damp, the sun doesn't shine anymore, and the temperature is low. The situation is terrible.



School: Lithuania GLOBE v-School

Site: Vilnius Fabijoniškes gymnasium



► **Me:** What happened? I'm really interested. I need as much information as possible about you so I can add it to a program.

**Oak:** What kind of program?

**Me:** It's called GLOBE. You have to provide certain information, like the colour of your leaves.

**Oak:** I was already preparing for winter when it was -4 degrees Celsius, and I wanted to drop my leaves. But the next day, it was +2 degrees Celsius. I got confused by such temperature swings and didn't know what to do.

**Me:** Don't worry so much. I understand you're stressed and unsure of what to do, but you'll know when it's the right time to drop all your leaves. I'll definitely come back to talk to you again and tell you about how the climate is changing. Thank you for talking with me; it was a pleasure.

**Oak:** Thank you, too! Don't forget me—come back to chat again.

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## PRICKLY PEAR

*Hello, my name is Matteo Sammut and I am a Globe Europe and Eurasia Regional Office reporter. This is my page for the Tree Magazine.*



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*INTERVIEW WITH PRICKLY PEAR TREE*

*ME: HELLO TREE! CAN I ASK A FEW QUESTIONS?*

*TREE: HELLO YOUNG BOY! YOU CAN...I HAVE BEEN  
HERE FOR THE LAST DECADE, SO I HAVE PLENTY OF  
TIME.*

*ME: DECADE? IS THAT 100 YEARS? THAT'S AMAZING!  
HOW IS IT TO LIVE FOR SUCH A LONG TIME?*

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*TREE: IT COMES WITH GOOD AND BAD. I WENT THROUGH GOOD AND BAD WEATHER, MANY SEASONS AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE.*

*ME: YOU ARE ROOTED IN ONE PLACE SO IT CAN BECOME VERY LONELY. ISN'T IT?*

*TREE: YES AND NO. BIRDS AND INSECTS GOING KEEP ME COMPANY.*

*ME: THAT ONE THING I HAVE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT!!*

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*TREE: BEING A TREE INVOLVES MANY CHALLENGES  
BUT ALSO BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCES.*

*ME: YOU HAVE AN AMAZING LIFE STORY! I CAN ONLY  
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME SUCH PRECIOUS  
INFORMATION FOR ME AND FOR OUR MAGAZINE. OUR  
READERS WILL BE DELIGHTED TO READ ABOUT YOU.*

*TREE: I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPANY AND YOUR  
TIME!*

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