

A Korean Myth

- 1 One day, years and years ago, the birds of this world knew that cold winter was approaching and began to fly south to warmer countries. All except one little bird who had a broken wing and could not fly.
- 4 "I will ask the trees in the forest if they can keep me warm in the cold winter," he said.
- 6 So, he jumped and he flapped towards the trees at the fringe of the forest. He first met a majestic birch. "Magnificent Birch," he sang, "will you allow me to stay warm in your branches during the cold winter?"
- 9 "Certainly not!" the birch tree said. "I have to take care of my branches."
- 10 The little bird staggered on until he came to a great oak tree. "Oh, mighty Oak, when winter comes, I may freeze. Will you keep me warm in your branches?"
- 13 "No, for you might eat my acorns!" replied the oak. "Go away."
- 14 The little bird jumped and he flapped until he came to a maple tree. "Oh, glorious Maple, will you let me spend winter in your warm branches?"
- 16 "I shall not!" replied the maple. "I never help strangers."
- 17 The poor little bird did not know where to go, but he kept staggering and flapping along with his broken wing. Presently the fir tree saw him and said, "Come here, little bird. You may spend the winter in my branches."
- 20 The pine tree nearby said, "I will spread my branches to keep the wind away."
- 21 The holly tree added, "You may eat my berries. They are good food for birds."
- 22 The little bird was very comfortable in his warm nest, protected from the cold wind and with holly berries to eat.
- 26 That night, the Frost King said, "North Wind, it's time to start winter. Blow the leaves from the trees, my friend, except for those who helped the bird with the broken wing. For their kindness, they may keep their leaves, even



Challenge 3

1 From the first paragraph, find and copy four words that explain when these events happened.

2 Why does the bird call the trees "magnificent", "mighty" and "glorious"?

3 Look at the paragraph beginning "So, he jumped and he flapped...".

What does the word "fringe" mean?

Tick one.

centre

edge

heart

nearby

4 Write the name of the tree beside the excuse it gave not to help the bird.

"No, for you might eat my acorns!" _____

"I never help strangers." _____

"I have to take care of my branches." _____

5 Why does the writer tell you in the first paragraph that the bird had a broken wing?

6 Tick one box in each row to show whether the statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The bird wanted the trees to give him food.		
The bird tried to fly south.		
The bird asked politely for help.		
The bird was comfortable in its nest in the fir tree.		

7 List **three** trees from the story that were allowed to keep their leaves, even in winter.

8 The story is set just before the beginning of winter.

Find **two** pieces of evidence for this statement. You do not have to use direct quotations from the text.

9 Which of these would be the best title for this myth?

Tick **one**.

The Bird with the Broken Wing

Why Some Trees Are Evergreen

Why the Bird Didn't Fly South

King Frost and the North Wind

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

Answers: