



















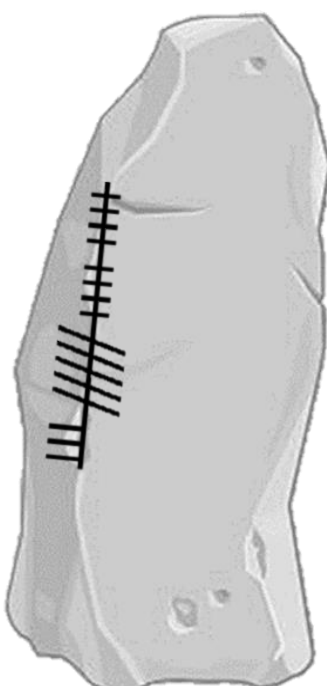



The Irish Tree Alphabet

 A <u>aim</u> Scots Pine	 B <u>beith</u> Birch	 C/K <u>coll</u> Hazel	 D <u>dair</u> Oak	 E <u>eadha</u> Aspen
 F/V <u>fearn</u> Alder	 G <u>gort</u> Ivy	 H <u>huath</u> Hawthorn	 I <u>idho</u> Yew	 L <u>luis</u> Rowan
 M <u>muin</u> Bramble	 N <u>nion</u> Ash	 Ng <u>nGetal</u> Reed	 O <u>onn</u> Gorse	 Q <u>quert</u> Apple
 R <u>ruis</u> Elder	 S <u>saille</u> Willow	 T <u>tinne</u> Holly	 U <u>ura</u> Heather	 Z or SS <u>straif</u> Blackthorn

Long ago in Ireland, before we had the letters we use today, there was a special way of writing called Ogham. Instead of letters, Ogham used 20 shapes, some of which were named after trees or important plants of that time. These plant shapes were made up of a tall line or "stem" and smaller lines that looked like branches. Each shape represented a different sound of the Irish language. To read it, you would start at the bottom and climb up the tree.

<p>What four-letter word is written on the standing stone below? Remember to start from the bottom and climb up.</p>	<p>Can you write your initials in Ogham on the standing stone below?</p>
	

What trees or plants do your initials represent? Can you find them where you are?