

VI ROMAN FARMING

Motivation task: read the text and answer the questions.



1. "Lo Parot" an ancient olive tree near Tarraco.

'Lo Parot' is an old olive tree in Horta de Sant Joan, not far from Tarraco. This is one of the oldest olive trees in the world. Some people say it is the oldest olive tree in Catalonia. It is believed to have been planted by the Romans. At the top, the circumference measures 15 metres and the diameter of the trunk measures 9 metres. It is 8 metres tall.

❖ Answer the questions and look at the pictures.

1. Are there olive trees in the Mediterranean area?
2. Did Romans grow olive trees?
3. What products can be obtained from an olive tree?
4. Can you think why olive oil was so important?
5. Can you name other basic farming products?



1. Grapes.



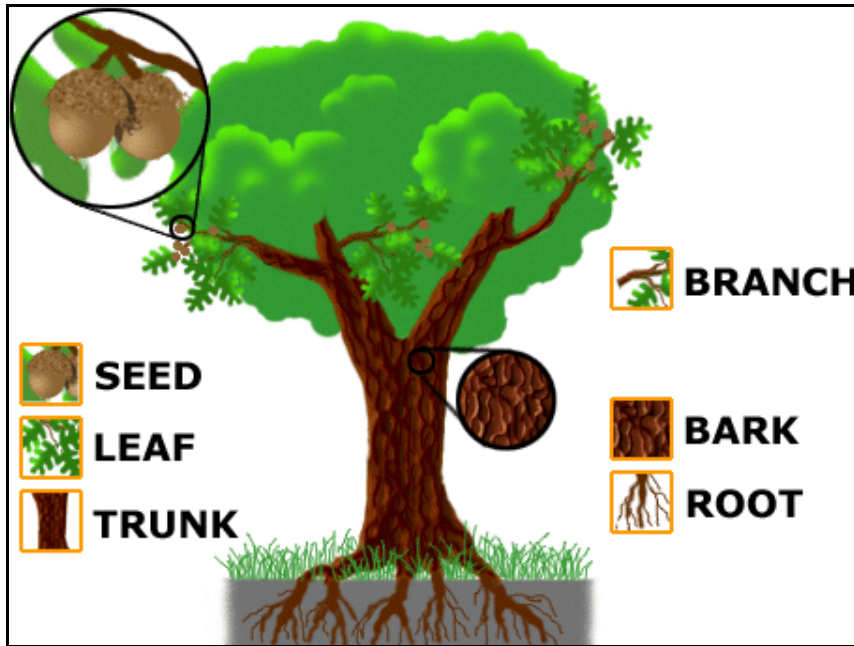
3. Olives.



4. Olive oil.



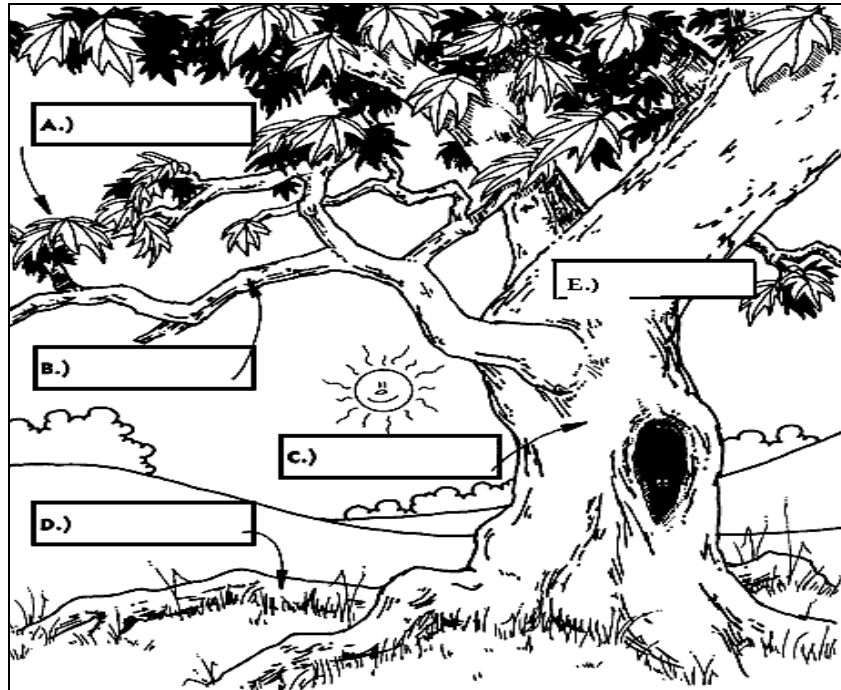
5. Wood log.



❖ **Match the tree parts with the definitions:**

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 1. | leaf (pl. leaves) | <input type="checkbox"/> a. outer layer of the trunk. |
| 2. | branches | <input type="checkbox"/> b. flat green structures of a plant. |
| 3. | bark | <input type="checkbox"/> c. hold up the leaves. |
| 4. | seed | <input type="checkbox"/> d. a flowering plant's unit of reproduction. |
| 5. | roots | <input type="checkbox"/> e. the stem, or body, of a tree. |
| 6. | trunk | <input type="checkbox"/> f. hold the tree in the ground. |

❖ **Write the parts A) B) C) D) E)**



❖ Read the text and answer the questions.



7. Wines and olive tree.

Roman farming

Most people lived and worked in the countryside, and even people who lived in towns worked on the land outside the towns. Large cities depended on the work of people who lived in farms growing crops. Important crops were wheat, olives and grapes to make olive oil and wine. Olive trees were planted in the entire Mediterranean basin under Roman rule. Olives were harvested in December. The Mediterranean climate was ideal for growing grapes. Romans drank wine, but they watered it down. Wines were stored in pottery jars called *amphorae*.

Mutton, beef, pork and chicken were important in people's diet. These animals were farmed in the countryside. Farm animals were important to Romans for dairy produce, meat, and leather. Slaves ran cattle farms in Italy.

During Roman times, crops were farmed on large estates called *latifundia*. First there was the steward (*vilicus*) who ran the estate. Under him there was the field foreman and finally the field workers who were mostly slaves.

Romans knew that the soil would become useless if it wasn't fertilized so they used manure (fertilizer) from their farm animals to revitalize the soil.

1. True or false sentences

In Roman times most people worked in the countryside.

Olives were harvested in September.

Romans drank wine mixed with water.

Roman crops were farmed in *latifundia* called estates.

A steward or *vilicus* ran the estate or *latifundia*.

Most of the field workers in *latifundia* were free men.

Romans harvested olive trees, vineyards and wheat.

The lands were very rich, so they did not fertilize the soil.

2. Rewrite the wrong sentences.

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3. Complete the verbs in the chart

Present	Past	Participle	Verb	Meaning
grow			irregular	
	was			
	called			
drink				
	ran			
		stored		
		harvested		

4. Farming word scramble. Unscramble the words in the chart

SCRAMBLED WORD	WORD	MEANING
1. vhsaret		
2. wkrero		
3. vlsea		
4. vydaeinr		
5. dnal		
6. staete		
7. ewin		
8. gowr		
9. rdyia		
10. ansbi		
11. sergap		
12. proeytt		
13. sraj		

14. ropsc		
15. arfm		
16. ecltat		

5. Write 6 sentences using these words.