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The oak is known as the king of the forest. The Celts and Germanic tribes regarded it as a holy tree and the faith of Druids was as solid as an oak. Its deep taproot makes it an excellent lightening conductor (so the perfect tree for any supreme being!). An oak can live for many centuries and provides shelter to numerous birds, animals, insects, fungi and mosses. The survival of the oak is dependent on birds and squirrels because without them acorns would remain too close to the tree. In the Middle Ages, acorns were the staple feed for pigs. They are high in tannin and so poisonous for people and horses but very useful for tanning leather. You can, however, make a surrogate coffee from them.

The wood is extremely hard and durable and gets harder as it ages.

It can become as strong as iron.

It is prized for its use in the construction industry and for building ships. In the Golden Age (17th century), it took 3700 oaks to construct one war ship.

There are many types of oak.

This is a pin oak, not a common or English oak, nor a 'truffle oak'.

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