






Deciphering Ancient Ogham

By Alex Bellos

Ogham is the earliest written source of the Irish language. It was originally used on stone megaliths in Ireland and western parts of Great Britain between the fifth and seventh centuries A.D., and later in manuscripts. It consists of a stemline with notches or strokes cut across it.

Here are some names of plants in Old Irish written in both Ogham and the Latin alphabet.

OGHAM	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
	<i>us</i>	heather
	<i>gort</i>	ivy
	<i>muinn</i>	grapevine
	<i>pethbol</i>	raspberry
	<i>ruis</i>	elderberry

Your Challenge:

Write in the Latin alphabet:



birch



spruce

Write in Ogham:

nim

ash

luis

elm