

Eastern Tent Caterpillar



Stone
Living Lab



The Eastern Tent Caterpillar is an insect that lives in Massachusetts. It eats different kinds of plant leaves, especially Black Cherry Trees. When the temperature gets warmer, the caterpillars hatch from eggs in trees along with their 200 or 300 siblings! The young caterpillars build a tent out of silk where they shelter together between meals.

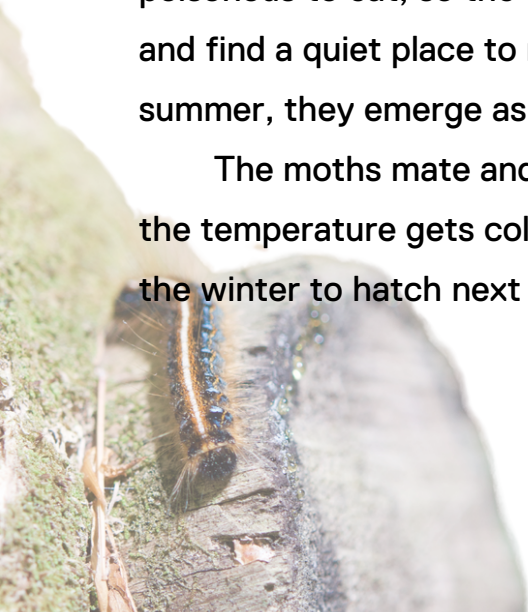
Eastern Tent Caterpillars eat three meals a day: before sunrise, the middle of the afternoon, and after sunset. They eat the small, fresh leaves of the trees they live on, like the Black Cherry Tree. After a few weeks, the Cherry leaves become tough and poisonous to eat, so the caterpillars leave the tent and find a quiet place to make a cocoon. In late summer, they emerge as adult moths!

The moths mate and lay their eggs in the fall as the temperature gets colder, and the eggs wait for the winter to hatch next spring.

What do caterpillars eat?

Where do caterpillars live?

How do caterpillars know when the seasons change?



American Robin



Stone
Living Lab



The American Robin is a bird that lives in Massachusetts, and can be found all over in cities, towns, and the countryside. They eat Black Cherries, blueberries, caterpillars, and worms.

As the days start getting longer in the spring, robins start singing, building nests, and looking for mates. Robins are one of the first birds to lay eggs each year. It only takes two weeks for the eggs to hatch, and two weeks for the chicks to become full grown! Both parents help take care of the chicks. Robin chicks eat the same food as their parents, and they eat every thirty minutes from sunrise to sunset.

Once robins are big enough to leave the nest, they find food on their own. As the days start getting shorter in the fall, robins form big groups called flocks and move into the woods, where there is more food.



What do robins eat?

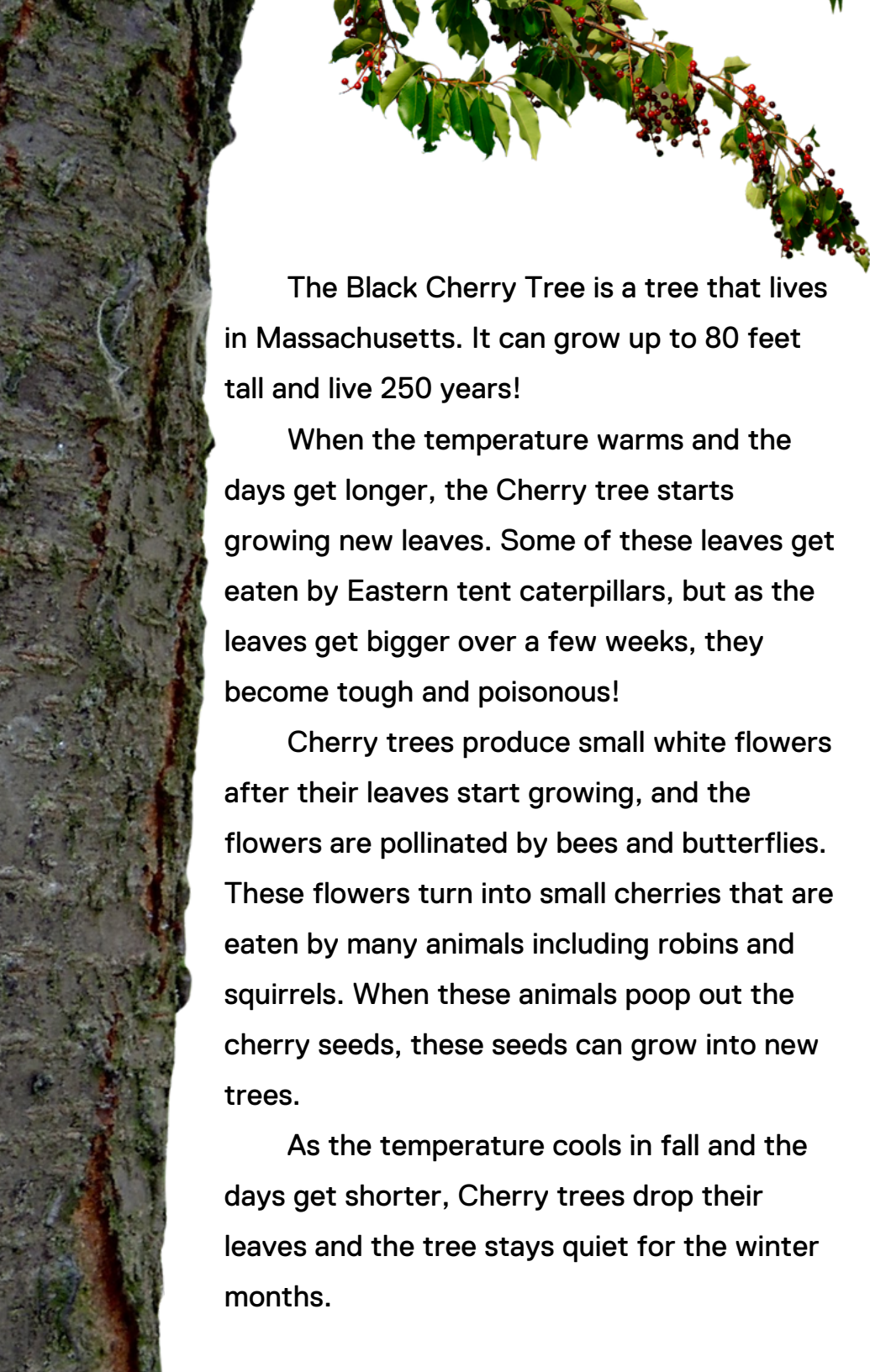
Where do robins live?

How do robins know when the seasons change?

Black Cherry Tree



Stone
Living Lab



The Black Cherry Tree is a tree that lives in Massachusetts. It can grow up to 80 feet tall and live 250 years!

When the temperature warms and the days get longer, the Cherry tree starts growing new leaves. Some of these leaves get eaten by Eastern tent caterpillars, but as the leaves get bigger over a few weeks, they become tough and poisonous!

Cherry trees produce small white flowers after their leaves start growing, and the flowers are pollinated by bees and butterflies. These flowers turn into small cherries that are eaten by many animals including robins and squirrels. When these animals poop out the cherry seeds, these seeds can grow into new trees.

As the temperature cools in fall and the days get shorter, Cherry trees drop their leaves and the tree stays quiet for the winter months.

How long can Black Cherry tree live?

What animals eat Black Cherry leaves and berries?

How do Black Cherry trees know when the seasons change?