



## EASTER TIME: DOGWOOD TREE.

The simple beauty of dogwood trees is certainly a welcome sight after the long dreariness of winter. In addition to their popularity as landscape plantings, these trees have a variety of uses and even legendary significance.



Read the text and fill in the gaps with the appropriate words, two words are extra.

### The Legend of the Dogwood Tree

Long ago, when Jesus lived on Earth, the dogwood was a giant among trees, towering 1 \_\_\_\_\_ above the pine and the oak. Its broad, arching branches gave shelter and shade to 2 \_\_\_\_\_ birds and animals.

One day men came into the forest. They needed 3 \_\_\_\_\_ for the beams of the cross on which Jesus would die. Because of its great size and strength, they chose the dogwood.

The dogwood tree was filled with 4 \_\_\_\_\_ when it heard what was to be done with its wood. 'Lord,' it cried, 'let me wither and fall. I cannot bear to live, knowing I am the 5 \_\_\_\_\_ of your pain.'

Then the 6 \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus came, comforting the sorrowing tree. 'Because you feel pity for Me,' Jesus said, 'never again will you be used for such a terrible purpose. You will become a small, 7 \_\_\_\_\_ sapling. Your blossoms will be white, in the shape of a cross. The outer edge of each 8 \_\_\_\_\_ will be torn and stained with rusty red, as if pierced by a nail. In the centre will be a 9 \_\_\_\_\_ of thorns. All who see you will remember Me.'

Now, each spring, the little 10 \_\_\_\_\_ brightens gardens and forests with its clouds of white blossoms, bringing its message of 11 \_\_\_\_\_ and love.

*( A Tale from the Southern American States)*

dogwood  
smile  
crown  
proudly  
countless  
petal  
wood  
hope  
quietly  
hope  
slender  
grief  
cause

### Some interesting facts about Dogwood Trees.

The flowering dogwood produces red fruit in autumn. The fruit is edible, but not very tasty.

American Indians planted their crops when the dogwoods bloomed. They also used dogwood root to treat *malaria*.

Dogwood was used in medicines for cold and colic as well as digestion and fever.

A wide variety of products, from bowls and pipes, to tool handles and golf clubs, originated from flowering dogwood.

The very hard and strong wood of this tree can be used to manufacture roller-skate wheels and knitting needles.

Daggers were made of dogwood in Europe, and the Old English forms of the word 'daggers' suggest the possible origin of the dogwood tree's name.

Beautiful images of flowering dogwood decorate a wide range of giftware, key chains, refrigerator magnets, T-shirts, trucker hats and even shoes.

The dogwood is the state flower of the US state of Virginia, and the state tree of two US states – Virginia and Missouri.

This tree is special and unusual. Maybe there **IS** some truth in the legend above.

**HAPPY EASTER!**

## **KEY**

### **The Legend of the Dogwood Tree.**

1. proudly    2 countless    3 wood    4 grief    5 cause    6 voice  
7 slender    8 petal    9 crown    10 dogwood    11 hope