

## Sentences – Kapok Tree

The Kapok Tree is a tropical tree that can be found as a native in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, northern South America and West Africa.

It is grown to be harvested in other countries.

The tree grows to 73 metres and its trunk can often be up to 3m in diameter.

It has buttress roots which stick out from the trunk and can extend up to 12 to 15 metres.

The trunk and many of the larger branches are often crowded with large thorns.

The trees produce several hundred pods that contain seeds surrounded by a fluffy, yellowish fibre.

This fibre is called Kapok.

The flowers of the trees are an important source of nectar and pollen for honey bees and bats.

The fibre from the seed pods is very light, very buoyant and is resistant to water.

It can be used as a filling in mattresses, pillows and even stuffed toys.

The seeds produce an oil that is used to make soap and fertilisers.

The tree is a sacred symbol in Maya mythology.

According to the folklore of Trinidad and Tobago the 'Castle of the Devil' is a huge Kapok tree in which the demon of death was imprisoned by a carpenter.

In Burkina Faso, in West Africa, special masks are carved from the wood of the Kapok Tree.

## Kapok Tree Sub-Headings

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