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dictionary

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Language



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birch  (bûrch)

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n.

1.

a. Any of various deciduous trees or shrubs of the genus *Betula*, native to the Northern Hemisphere and having unisexual flowers in catkins, alternate, simple, toothed leaves, and bark that often peels in thin papery layers.

b. The hard, close-grained wood of any of these trees, used especially in furniture, interior finishes, and plywood.

2. A rod from a birch, used to administer a whipping.

tr.v. **birched**, **birch·ing**, **birch·es**

To whip with or as if with a birch.

[Middle English, from Old English *birce*; see **bherag-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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birch

paper birch

Betula papyrifera

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