

Tree Rings

We can find out a lot of information about a tree by looking at the rings in its trunk. To see the rings, we look at cross sections of the trunk.

For each year a tree has been alive, a ring can be seen in the cross-section. This means one year equals one ring.



How old is this tree?



The thickness of a tree ring can also tell us a lot about the environment and health of a tree during a specific time period.

Wide rings mean a year full of rain and good growth. Thin rings mean there was not enough rain that year

Can you identify good years from bad ones using the cross-section to the left?

Fun Fact

A scientist who studies tree rings is called a *dendrochronologist*.

