

# Tree Rings Tell A Story

As trees grow, they add a new layer of wood to their trunks each year. Since the trunk of trees are round, this new growth is called a growth ring or tree ring. Each year a new tree ring is added to the outside of the previous year's tree ring, just below the bark of the tree. Each tree ring represents one year in the life of a tree. By counting tree rings, you can find the age of a tree. If you look closely at a tree ring, you'll notice that some rings are wider than others. The width of a tree ring is determined mostly by weather conditions. If the ring is wide, then the tree received abundant rainfall and good growing conditions. However, if the ring is thin, then the tree experienced a lack of rain and stressful growing conditions. Tree rings can tell us a great deal about previous weather conditions. Tree rings may even have scars from lightening strikes, wild fires, or lawn mowers. So go out and find a tree stump, count the rings that extend behind the bark, and find out the age of the tree.

