

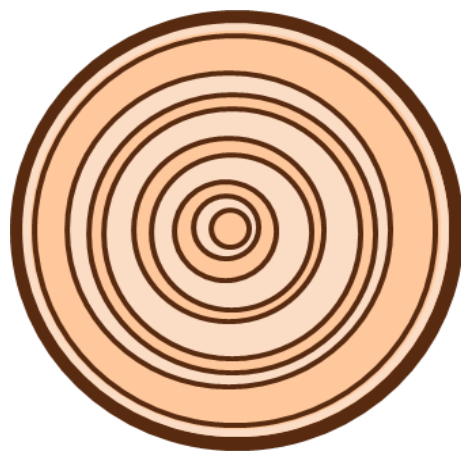
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Forestry Activities – Tree ID and Inventory

Trees provide timber, food, energy, clean air, habitats, recreation, and resources for humans and animals. The health of our local trees and the diversity of our forests are also very important to our communities and in giving us clues about our environment. Use this guide to practice hands-on tree identification and urban forest monitoring, and learn more about what trees can tell us about our environment.

Explore the exhibit display Measuring Climate Changes to see how scientists learn about the environment by studying natural clues, like tree rings. Every year a **tree** grows, another **ring** is added to its **core**. The ring's size and shape can tell scientists what happened that year. Good conditions favor more growth, while poor conditions restrict growth. Looking at the tree cross-section below, see if you can **identify two years where conditions favored growth and two years that did not favor growth**.

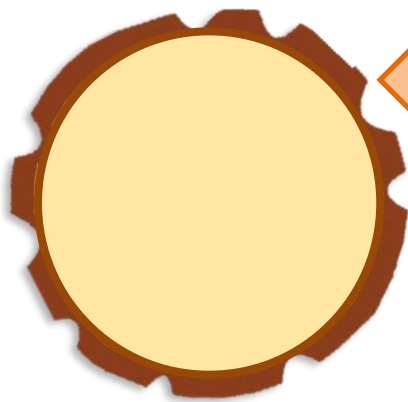
Draw lines from the words to the rings.



Years that
favored
growth

Years that
did **NOT**
favor growth

Count the rings. How old
would **this** tree be?



← If you were a tree, how many rings would your core have? Draw your rings on the tree core to the left.

Now head outside with a ruler and a piece of string and find a sturdy tree. Use the ALNC Tree Identification Guide to answer these questions:

Can you identify the tree? _____

Is it deciduous or coniferous? _____ How can you tell? _____

Estimate the tree's height: _____

Measure the tree's circumference: _____

Estimate the tree's age: _____

Now find another tree and see if you can assess and measure it too. Use the chart on the back of this sheet to inventory as many trees as you can!

Tree Location	Species	Circumference (inches)	$\div 3.14 =$	Diameter	\times	Species Factor	$=$	Age
Example	Walnut	37 inches	$\div 3.14 =$	11.8	\times	4.5	$=$	53!
			$\div 3.14 =$		\times		$=$	
			$\div 3.14 =$		\times		$=$	
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