

What can we learn from tree rings?

When you look at the inside of a tree trunk, you can see rings that form circles. Each ring shows one year of the tree's life, so counting the rings tells you how old the tree is. The size of the rings also gives clues about what a year was like. A thick ring means the tree had good growing conditions, like lots of rain. While a thin ring means the tree had a harder year, like not enough water. The light lines are from when it grew in spring and early summer, and the dark lines are from when it grew in late summer and fall

Fun fact: The scientists who study tree rings are called dendrochronologists. They use the rings to learn about how the environment changed in the past and to figure out the history of old wooden objects too.

How many rings do you count on this tree?

