You can estimate the age of a tree without cutting it down and counting the growth rings. Most trees in this area of the country add about one inch to their circumference (around the tree) every year. If you divide the total circumference by one inch, you will have the tree's age.

Not all trees can be dated with this method. Some trees grow taller faster than increasing in circumference such as firs, eucalyptuses, and North American redwoods. Some trees grow taller slower such as limes, horse chestnuts, and yews. Palm trees grow taller without increasing in circumference.

With a measuring tape, measure from the ground up to five feet. Mark the five-foot line on the tree with sidewalk chalk. This will be the standard height for measurement on all the trees you measure. Measure the circumference around the tree at the 5-ft. line. Divide this number by 1 inch to get the age of the tree (so a tree with a 16 inch circumference is 16 years old).

If you prefer to use metric measurements, measure the height on the tree up to 1.5 meters, and divide the circumference of the tree at this height by 2.5 cm to get the age (so a tree with a 45 cm circumference is 18 years old).

How old are the trees in your yard?

## Measuring the Age of Trees

Type of tree: $\qquad$
Circumference: $\qquad$ Calculation: $\qquad$
Age: $\qquad$

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Age: $\qquad$

## Measuring the Age of Trees



Is the tallest tree in your yard the oldest? $\qquad$

What type of tree is the oldest in your yard? $\qquad$

What type of tree is the youngest in your yard? $\qquad$

If you have any trees in your yard that are the same age, list them below.
Type of Tree
Age of Tree
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


Do the trees that are the same age look similar? Are they the same height? Are they the same type of tree? $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Do the leaves or needles of older trees of the same type look different from the leaves or needles of younger trees? $\qquad$

Does the bark of older trees look different from the bark of younger trees?

Are any trees in your yard the same age as you? $\qquad$
What type of tree is your age?
Is this tree taller than you, or are you taller? $\qquad$

