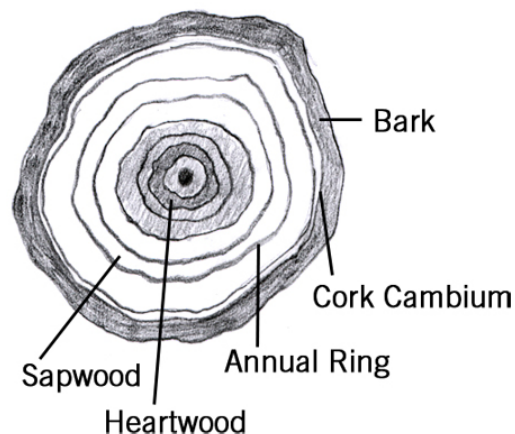


My Years in Tree Rings

Name _____ Period ____ Date _____

A tree's trunk is made up of layers that look like rings going out from the center of the tree. The center of the tree is the **pith**, which represents when that part of the tree was 'born'. Every year the tree grows a new ring. The thickness of the ring depends on how positive the environment is for it to grow. Most of the time the water supply has the biggest effect on the thickness of the ring. Wet years, when the tree has plenty of water, are often big growth years. The temperature can also have a big effect. Slightly warmer than normal will produce larger growth rings, while much warmer will produce smaller rings in most trees.



In a process called correlation, the thickness of rings from one tree can be match to younger, older and dead trees that overlap in times. The study tree rings, called **dendrochronology**, can tell us about the time of certain events and reveal weather and climate patterns those trees faced in that location and time.

In your own words:

What could a wet year reveal about a tree's life?

What could a hot year reveal about a tree's life?

Directions

1. List each year of your life, starting with the year you were born.
2. Next to the year, write a caption that describes an event that year. When finished, review your years and decide if that year was 'wet' or 'dry'. You get decide what 'wet' and 'dry' mean to you, but you could ask yourself questions such as:
 - a. Did events of the year have a big impact (wet) or small impact (dry) on you?
 - b. Did events help you learn and grow a lot (wet) or a little (dry)?
 - c. Were there a lot of events with a positive impact (wet) or only a few (dry)?
3. On a large piece of paper, draw a small circle close to the middle of your paper. This is the *pith* and represents the first year which you were born. Label it with your birth date.
4. Draw circles around the pith to represent tree rings for each year of your life. Make the thickness of the ring twice as wide for the 'wet' years than the 'dry' years.
5. Using a pen or fine-point marker, write the year and events in each ring. Color your rings.

My Years in Tree Rings

Name _____ Period ____ Date _____

Name _____ Period ____ Date _____

[illegible]