

Lesson Anchor

Measure the age of a tree

Explore the
Phenomenon



Trees are tough plants! They grow to be strong and tall. A tree grows a new light ring and dark ring for every year that is alive. Do you notice how the light rings are a little thicker than the dark rings? That's because light rings grow in the springtime when water is plentiful—the tree is able to grow a lot. Dark rings are a little thinner and harder because they form in the fall and winter when less growth occurs. It takes many years for a tree to grow, and you can know how old a tree is by simply counting its rings.

How old is this tree? Use the red marks on the picture to help you count the rings.

43, 44,
45...



TREE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Use this leaf identification chart to find a similar tree on your school grounds. If you can't find a tree with leaves exactly like these, just choose a leaf shape that is similar.

You can do it!
I be-leaf in you!



Basswood



Redbud



Ash



Red Maple



Birch



Basswood



Black Cherry



Cottonwood



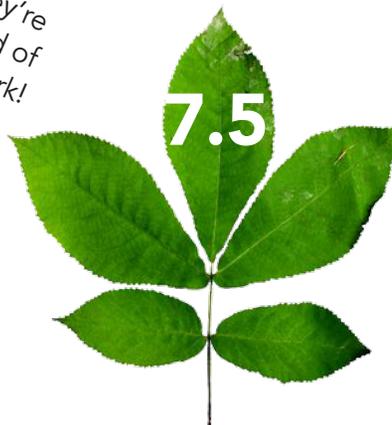
Dogwood

Why do leaves fall from dogwood trees?



Beary Leaf

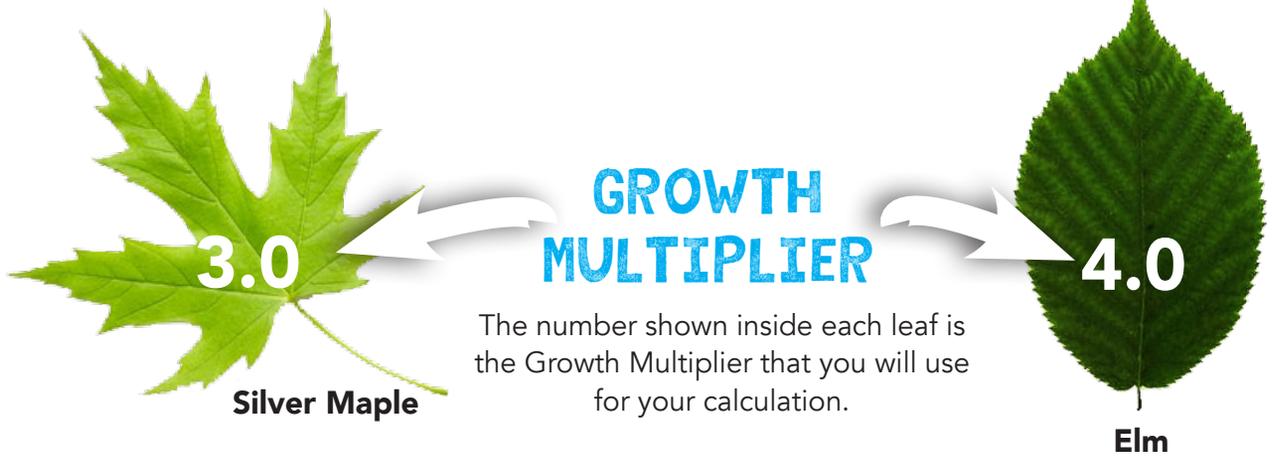
They're afraid of the bark!



Hickory



Oak



Use this mathematical formula to estimate your tree's age. You will need a calculator to calculate decimals. Use the circumference of your tree and the growth multiplier in this equation.

Calculate a tree's age using this formula:

The age of the tree = $\left(\frac{\text{Circumference (in inches)}}{3.14} \right) \times \text{Growth Multiplier}$

Do your mathematical calculations here.

Can you explain it?

What do trees need to live and grow?

