Name:
Class:
Date:

Activity 16.1A: Tree Parts Lab

Materials Needed

- Three crosscuts of different tree trunks (crosscut disks can be purchased at many craft stores)
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Pencil

Instructions

Use the sample disks to complete the following questions.

Disk One

1. How old was this tree?
   Answer:

2. Note the years when the annual rings are thicker or thinner. Count the center of the disk as year one.

A. Thicker years:
   Answer:

B. Thinner years:
   Answer:

3. What is the diameter of this section of the trunk (diameter of the disk)?
   Answer:

Disk Two

1. How old was this tree?
   Answer:

2. Note the years when the annual rings are thicker or thinner. Count the center of the disk as year one.

A. Thicker years:

Answer:

B. Thinner years:

Answer:

3. What is the diameter of this section of the trunk?

Answer:

Disk Three

1. How old was this tree?

Answer:

2. Note the years when the annual rings are thicker or thinner. Count the center of the disk as year one.

A. Thicker years:

Answer:

B. Thinner years:

Answer:

3. What is the diameter of this section of the trunk (disk diameter)?

Answer:

Conclusion

Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think there are differences in the thickness of the annual rings?

Answer:

2. What information can trees give us about past climates?

   Answer:

On Your Own

1. Obtain a crosscut section of a tree trunk recently cut down in your area.
2. Answer the same questions you answered regarding the disks in class.
3. Obtain weather reports (including rainfall, temperature, and natural phenomena such as tornadoes and hurricanes) covering the life span of the tree.
4. Compare the variances of the rings (i.e., width and color) to the weather reports. Note how the rings vary in times of drought, longer winters, forest fires, etc.
5. Are the answers in your conclusion section of the activity accurate?

   Answer: