

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Tree Rings



We can find out a lot about a tree by looking at the rings in its trunk.  
To see the rings, we must look at a cross section of the trunk, just like this!

One ring usually stands for one year of the tree's life.

Sometimes the rings are wide, which means that year was full of rain and good growth. Other times, the rings are thin, which means there was not enough rain that year.

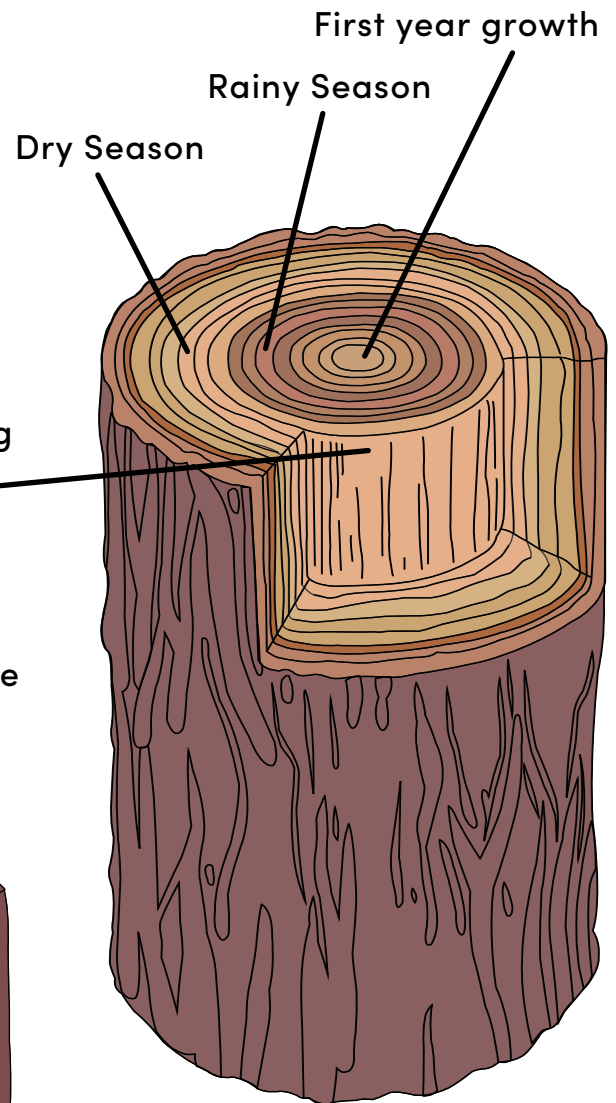
**Inner bark or "phloem":**  
food is passed to all of the tree.

**Cambium:** the cell layer that produces bark and new wood.

**Sapwood or "Xylem":**  
how water goes to all the tree.

**heartwood:**  
central supporting pillar of the tree.

**Outer bark:**  
a tree's protective "skin" layer.



**Fun fact:** Did you know that tree-ring dating is a scientific method called dendrochronology?

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Read each sentence and write whether it's true or false.

1. Each ring in a tree trunk stands for 5 years. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The inner bark is the "skin" of the tree. \_\_\_\_\_
3. In the phloem, food is passed to all of the tree. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The heartwood is the central supporting pillar of the tree. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The cambium transports water to all the rest of the tree. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Wide rings in a tree's trunk means there has been a year full of rain. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tree ring dating is called dendrochronology. \_\_\_\_\_
8. We can find out only little bits of information from a tree's trunk. \_\_\_\_\_