

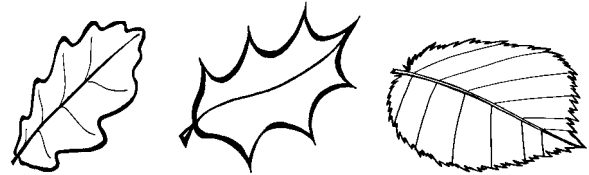
W13 How to find out the age of a tree



1. Choose a tree and identify it using the tree leaf guide (ID2)
2. Using a tape measure or ruler, measure 1.5 metres from the ground.
3. Then from this point measure the girth (or circumference) of the tree in centimetres.

Trees grow at different speeds with the circumference increasing at an average of 2.5cm a year. The figures below show the rate at which different trees grow.

Holly, Yew	1.25 cm/year
Oak	1.88 cm/year
Ash, Beech, Elm, Hazel	2.50 cm/year
Sycamore	2.75 cm/year
Pine, Spruce	3.13 cm/year



When you are back at school, use these figures to calculate the age of your chosen trees. Divide the circumference by the growth rate figure for your tree. A calculator may help!

For example if your chosen tree is an oak tree that measures 110cm you would need to do the following sum: $110 \div 1.88 = 58.5$ years (round up to 59 years old).

Tree type	Circumference in cm	Tree growth rate	Age in years
Example: Oak	110	1.88	58.5
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			