

## Tree Core Models

Lesson Title: Tree Core Models

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Tree rings can be counted and examined to infer valuable information about trees, such as age and growing conditions. Tree rings are formed from the center outwards; the ring closest to the center is the oldest, and the ring closest to the bark is the youngest.

Wide rings indicate good growing conditions, while narrow rings indicate a poor growing season. As you might guess, trees growing in the same general location tend to have similar ring patterns.

### Instructions:

- Go to the *Tree Core Reconstruction Activity*, on the Athena Project website (<http://vathena.arc.nasa.gov/curric/land/global/reconstr.html>), where you'll find instructions for making models of three tree cores.
- Read the definitions of the vocabulary words at the bottom of the page. What is a core sample?
- Follow the instructions on the site to create the tree core models, using Dr. Schweingruber's data. In addition, answer the following questions:

1. Which method of data display was easier for you to use when interpreting the data, the model or the data table? Why?
2. Why is it important to measure accurately when making a model?
3. Why do you think Dr. Schweingruber measured the tree rings in millimeters?

