Date a Tree

Like all trees, redwoods get taller and wider as they grow. Each year they add a growth ring, as shown in the wood cross-section below.

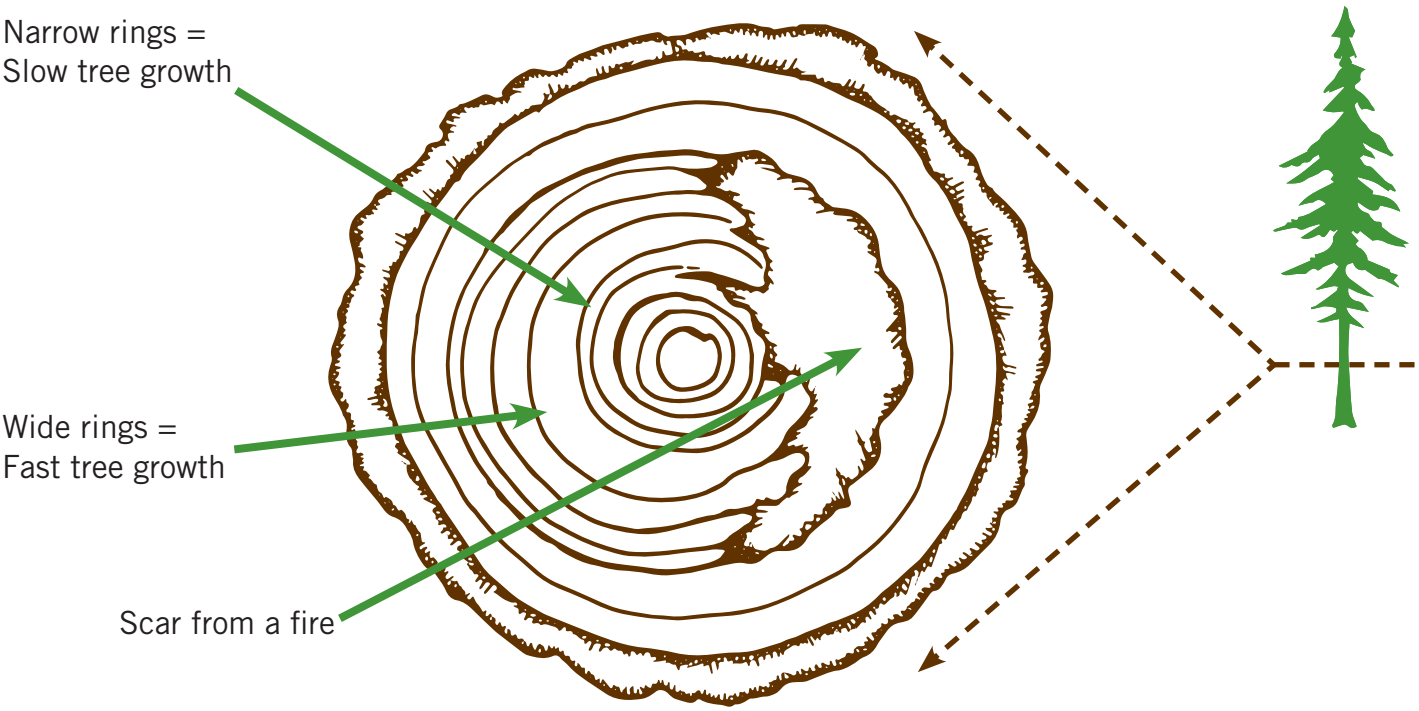

Illustration inspired by *Redwood Ed*, California State Parks, 2005

Count the number of rings in the diagram above and record the number in the table below.

Rings (= Age of Tree)

Now think: **What do trees need to grow?** (Example: rain, sunlight.) Look at the spacing of the rings. **The wider the ring, the faster the tree grew that year.**

1. What might help trees grow fast in some years?

2. What might cause trees to grow more slowly in other years?

Explore tree rings more: When visiting a redwood park, look around for a display of a redwood cross-section or a tree stump. Count the rings of that tree to determine its age.

Find more fun redwoods-themed activities at Education.SaveTheRedwoods.org.

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114 Sansome Street, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 362-2352
SaveTheRedwoods.org