

Measure the age of a tree



You can use the girth of a tree to work out its approximate age.
The girth of a tree is the distance around the tree trunk.



1. How many of your hand spans does it take to go around the trunk?

_____ hand spans

2. Using a ruler, measure how wide your hand span is.

_____ cms

3. Using your hand span measurements, estimate how big the girth of the tree is.

_____ hand spans

x _____ cms

= _____ Girth

cm

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

Different types of tree grow at different rates. The table below shows the average growth rate of a selection of trees - how much the girth increases each year.

Foresters measure a tree's girth, or circumference in order to calculate its approximate age, the volume of timber in the tree and how much carbon is stored in the wood

Use the table to find a 60 year old tree

Type of tree	Average trunk growth rate (girth) per year (cms)	Width of a 60 year old tree (cms)
Sycamore	2.5	150
English Oak	1.5	90
Douglas Fir, Cedar of Lebanon, London Plane,	7	420
Scots Pine, Horse Chestnut, Common Lime	1	60
Yew	0.7	42

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