

TREE RINGS

Objective: Students will learn about the parts of a tree and note significant life events.

Illinois State Goals: 12.A.

Top Book Hits:

I Can Name 50 Trees Today! by Bonnie Worth; **ISBN-13:** 978-0375822773

My Little Corner of the World by Beth Burch Smith; **ISBN-13:** 978-1878096364

Materials Needed:

- White paper plates
- Crayons
- Blank sticky labels
- Pens/pencils



Procedure:

1. Discuss these parts of a tree with the students: outer bark (protects tree), inner bark/phloem (pipeline for the food to be passed to the rest of the tree), cambium (the growing part of the tree that produces new bark and wood), xylem (pipeline for moving water up to the leaves), and heartwood (supports tree on the inside).
2. Give each student a paper plate. Ask them to use crayons and draw the outer bark, inner bark, cambium, xylem, and heartwood on the plate so it looks like a cross-section. Each section should be a different color and the sections should be labeled.
3. Ask the students to draw rings on the tree to show the age of the tree.
4. Ask the students to pretend their life is on the tree cross-section. Give each student blank sticky labels. They can write events of their life on the labels and attach them to different years on the tree cross-section.

Grow Further: Forests are for Kids <http://www.idahoforests.org/kids1.htm>
Anatomy of a Tree <http://www.arboday.org/trees/RingsTreeNatomy.cfm>