**Tree Growth**

A tree grows in diameter by adding a layer of new wood in the cambium layer every year. For each ring added the tree trunk and branches grow in diameter. By counting the tree rings you can determine the age of the tree.

Spring growth and summer growth vary and can be determine by the width or the growth rings. Spring growth rings are lighter and wider than those from the summer growth rings. During the spring growing season there is more water and food available and trees grow faster. Growth can also be determined by tree spacing, and the water / food availability.

In the space below each of the 6 photos: **Write the tree age. Then discuss if you think the tree grew quickly or slowly and what environmental factors may have contributed to that growth pattern.**

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