



Age a tree

Age 8-11 | Mathematics

Topic: Measure

Overview

This measuring activity will require calculation skills to decipher the age of a tree without cutting it down!

Resources

- A ruler
- A calculator (optional)

Activity

1. Using a ruler, measure how wide your hand span is in centimetres from the tip of your thumb to the tip of little finger and record the measurement.
2. Count how many of your hand spans it takes to go around the tree trunk and record that number.
3. Multiply the number of hand spans by the size of your hand to get an answer in centimetres. This is the measurement for the girth of the tree.
4. To work out the approximate age of the tree in years: If your tree was in a woodland, divide the girth by 1.25 and if your tree was in an open space, divide the girth by 2.5.

Suggested outcomes for learning

We understand you will tailor this activity to the learning needs of your pupils. Here are some of the learning outcomes and extension ideas other practitioners have used this lesson idea to reach.

- To accurately use a ruler measure to the nearest centimetre
- To order events on a timeline
- To plan and write a recount from a different perspective



Subject area	Topic	Ideas for further exploration
Mathematics	Statistics	Order the trees from oldest to youngest
		Explore other features of the tree such as height, species and location and see if there is any correlation between them
Science	Prediction/ reasoning	Discuss thoughts on the reasoning behind the two different calculations for different locations
History	Timelines	Place the trees in a timeline in conjunction with events from global or local history
Art	Concentric circles	Draw what the inside of the tree would look like now you know the age
Geography	Mapping	Draw a map of the trees in the school grounds and label them with the ages
Literacy and language	Account writing	Write an account from the point of view of the tree and what it's seen over a lifetime

