



## Tall Trees – Calculating Tree Age

Trees can live to be very old.

The table below shows the life-span of some of our most common trees:

| Name of tree | Life Span |
|--------------|-----------|
| Alder        | 120       |
| Ash          | 200       |
| Beech        | 350       |
| Birch        | 100       |
| Cherry       | 50        |
| Hawthorn     | 300       |
| Hazel        | 70        |
| Holly        | 300       |
| Hornbeam     | 300       |
| Maple        | 120       |
| Oak          | 800       |
| Rowan        | 120       |
| Scots Pine   | 500       |
| Willow       | 400       |
| Yew          | 5000      |

The height of the tree does not always help us guess how old it is. To find out the age of a tree:

1. Measure the girth of the tree at shoulder height in centimetres (cm)
2. Divide the girth by the correct number in the table below.
3. Round your answer up or down to the nearest whole number. This gives you the approximate age of your tree!

| Name of tree           | Divide girth (cm) by this number: |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oak                    | 2                                 |
| Hazel, Elm, Ash, Beech | 2.5                               |
| Holly, Yew             | 1.25                              |
| Pine, Spruce           | 3.25                              |
| Sycamore               | 2.75                              |