

Finding Out a Tree's Age

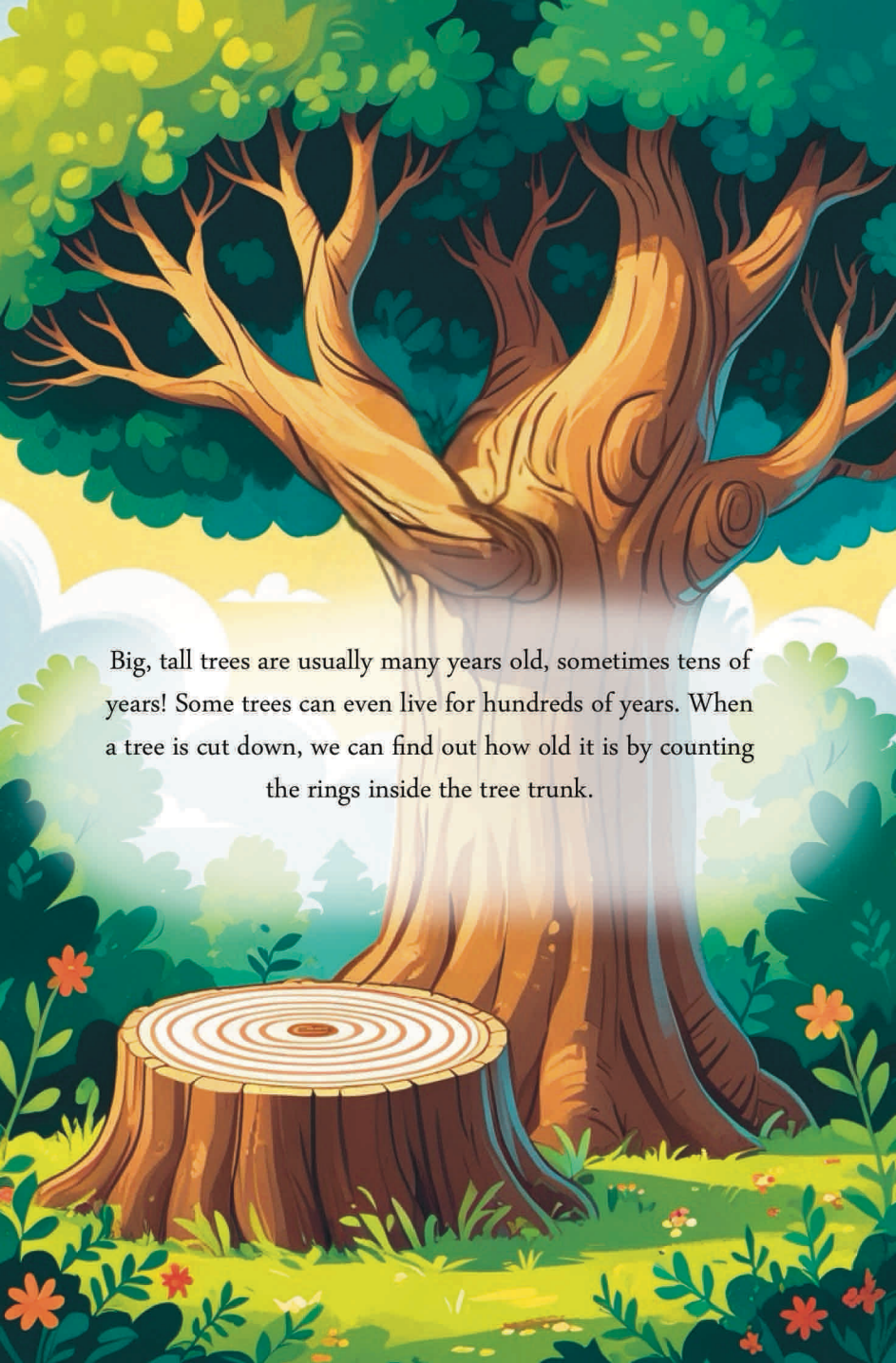
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Ilustrasi: Nida

(dibuat dengan Leonardo AI)

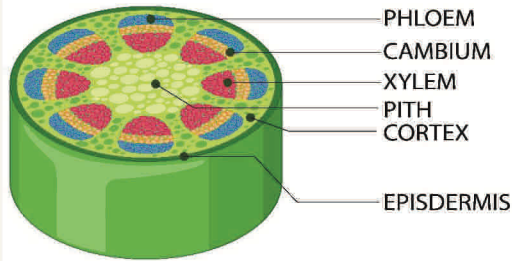
Did you know that we can figure out how old a tree is without using any special tools? It's true, we can tell a tree's age just by looking at it! How do we do that? Let's find out!





Big, tall trees are usually many years old, sometimes tens of years! Some trees can even live for hundreds of years. When a tree is cut down, we can find out how old it is by counting the rings inside the tree trunk.

INTERNAL STEM STRUCTURE

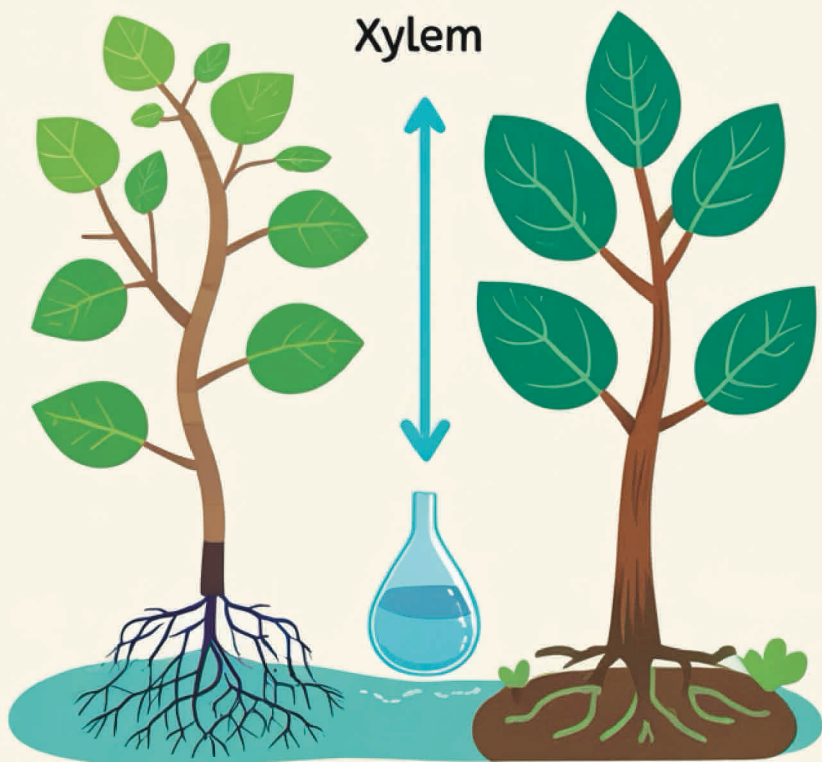


Tree rings are circles inside a tree trunk that look like rings inside rings. They are made by a special part of the tree called the cambium. The cambium is like a growing layer that makes new cells every year. It helps the tree grow bigger and wider. The cambium creates tiny tubes called xylem and phloem. These tubes make the trunk and roots keep getting thicker over time.



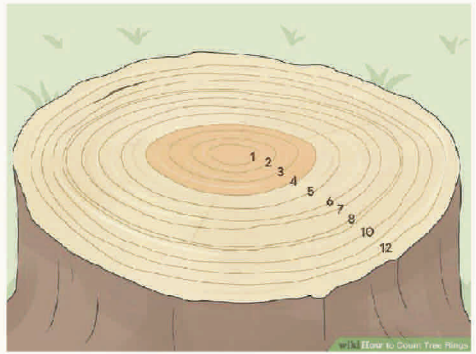
Xylem tubes are like tiny straws that carry water and nutrients from the roots up to the leaves. Phloem tubes carry the food produced by photosynthesis from the leaves to all parts of the tree.

How these tubes grow depends on the weather.




During the rainy season or warm spring, there is abundant water and nutrients available for the tree. So the tree makes big xylem tubes with thin walls. But during the dry season or cold fall, there is less water and fewer nutrients. So the tree makes smaller xylem tubes with thick walls and grows more slowly.





When the tree grows fast in the rainy season, it makes light-colored, wide rings. When it grows slowly in the dry season, it makes dark, thin rings. These light and dark rings take turns every year. That is why we call them "tree rings" or "annual rings." By counting these rings, we can tell how many seasons the tree has lived through and figure out its age. Pretty cool, right?



Trees around us are super important for all living things, including humans! They offer many benefits, which is why we must take good care of them. Let's not harm our nature through our actions. Let's work together to protect our environment!

An illustration of a forest scene. In the foreground, a large, flat-topped tree stump is shown, revealing its internal growth rings. The stump is cut horizontally, showing a series of concentric circles. The outer rings are light-colored, while the inner rings are darker. The stump is surrounded by green grass and small white flowers. In the background, a large tree trunk with a thick, textured bark stands. The tree has green leaves at the top, and some leaves are falling from it. The sky is a light blue color.

Note:

In countries with four seasons, the wide, light-colored rings form during spring and early summer. The thin, dark rings form during late summer and fall.