

NAME _____ DATE _____

Use the templates provided (or a blank sheet of paper) to draw growth rings to match each story.

The Forest Tree's Tale

Once upon a time, a tree grew in the forest. **In its first five years**, it grew slowly because the large trees overhead blocked the sunlight.

In its sixth year, a large tree next to it blew down in a storm. This allowed sunlight to reach the little tree, and for the next 10 years it grew rapidly.

In its 16th year, wildfire raged through the forest. The tree's thick bark enabled it to survive, but it was deeply scarred. It grew slowly for several years after that.

Year 20 was particularly bad. Bark beetles got under its skin, fungus entered its body through woodpecker holes, and caterpillars ate most of its leaves. For five years, the tree hardly grew at all and became very weak.

In its 25th year, it blew down in a storm. A science teacher found the fallen tree and used a chainsaw to make a tree cookie from the trunk.





NAME _____

DATE _____

The Urban Tree's Tale

Once upon a time, a tree seedling was planted on an urban street close to a school.

In the first four years after the tree was planted, there was not much rain. Since the tree's root system was not very developed, it grew very slowly.

In the fifth year, there was lots of rainfall and the tree grew rapidly.

In the sixth year, a car backed into the trunk of the tree, tearing off parts of the bark and leaving some of the trunk exposed.

In the seventh year, students from the school adopted the street tree. They watered it weekly and placed trunk-protecting mesh around it so that it could heal from its injury.

Add to Urban Tree's Tale, describing two more events in the tree's life. Add these rings to your drawing.

In the tenth year... _____

In the fifteenth year... _____



Source: Jessica Kratz, Greenbelt Conservancy, Staten Island, NY.

CAREER CORNER

URBAN FORESTERS plant, care for, and protect the trees in a city. Urban forests provide shade, improve air quality, reduce energy use, absorb carbon dioxide, and add beauty to the community.

I LOVE MY **GREEN JOB**!

