WILD DUBLIN
Exploring Nature in the City

How old is a tree?

Read pp 78-79

To calculate the age of a tree, you can count the growth rings on the tree when it has been cut down. If you can find a slice from a tree trunk then you can try this; however it is not advisable to cut the tree down just to discover its age. *There is another way*!

You will need to identify the tree and measure its girth (circumference). When you have measured this and identified the tree you can use this table to calculate its age. You will need to divide the girth by the number in the average growth box.

E.g. If you discover an oak tree and measure its girth to find that it is 2.82m (282cm) Then you would calculate 282 ÷ 1.88 = 150: The oak tree is 150 years old

Type of tree	Average growth rate (cm)	Type of tree	Average growth rate (cm)
Oak	1.88	Holly, Yew	1.25
Sweet Chestnut	2.15	Hazel, Ash, Elm, Beech	2.50
Sycamore	2.75	Pine, Spruce	3.13

(Reproduced from Numeracy through the Environment: Nat Assoc. of Field Studies Officers)

For further interesting activities that you can do with trees you can try these sites:

http://www.treecouncil.ie/tree_council_downloads.htm
(This is an Irish site and has very interesting downloadable activities)

http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/education/index.html
(This is the Heritage Council site and the Heritage in Schools scheme offers a panel of heritage specialists who will, at the request of a teacher, visit a primary school to work directly with the children. The visit is part-funded by the school and the remaining fee plus expenses are funded by the Heritage Council)

http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/education/primary/
(This is the Environmental Protection Agency site and offers the following packs as free downloads in both English and Irish)
* The Waste Pack / Dramhaíl
* The Natural Resources Pack / Achmainní Nádúrtha
* The Impacts and Pollution Pack / Tionchair agus Truailliú
* The Nature Pack / An Dúlra
* The Environmental Care Pack / Cúram Imshaoil

http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/explore/idsheets/
(This site is the UK Woodland Trust site and offers really good identification sheets in colour for leaves / birds / ancient trees etc in addition to downloadable activities on a range of woodland topics)