High Weald Hero Activity Card
How Old?

Location: Near some large trees **Time:** 1 hour
Equipment: Tape measure, chalk, pencil, paper, calculator, leaf identification sheet, string (optional) **Audience:** KS2

An opportunity to learn about tree growth whilst using numeracy skills

Activity Description: Children are put into pairs and choose a tree to measure. Get them to estimate the age of the tree. On the tree trunk, measure from the ground up to a height of 1.5m*. Mark with chalk. Wrap the tape around the tree at this height, making sure it is horizontal. (If easier, children can be given string to wrap around the trunk and then measure the amount of string used). Measure and record the circumference. Divide the circumference by the average annual growth rate to calculate its age. How accurate was their estimate?

**The circumference of the tree is measured at 1.5m above the ground as this is the recommended height by the forestry industry*

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Trees grow at different rates depending on the species and location. Within a woodland setting **the average growth rate is 1.5cm a year**. However, for greater accuracy the following growth rates can be used:

Tree	Average annual growth rate (cm)
Holly & Yew	1.25
Hazel, Ash, Elm, Beech	2.5
Pine & Spruce	3.13
Oak	1.88
Sycamore	2.75

Children can collate their information to do further calculations and make comparisons. Data collected can be used for creating visual graphs and bar charts or posing and answering further questions.

High Weald Teaching Point: One of the unique characteristics of the High Weald is its abundance of ancient woodland. This means woodland has existed on the same site since 1600AD. Point out to the children that this doesn't mean all trees are 400 years old! Woodlands, like all of the High Weald, are continually changing.

Activity adapted from Teaching with Trees, Oldham Council and Pennine Edge Forest

Be a High Weald Hero - you can make a difference