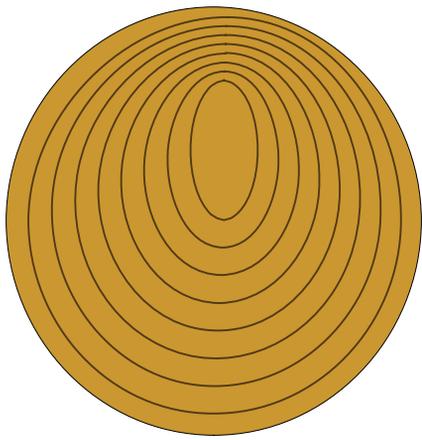


## Reading Tree Rings



If you take a cross section of a tree trunk you notice a series of rings. These rings indicate the growth pattern of that tree. Each ring is made up of two parts; a light and a dark band. The lighter band, called earlywood, forms during the spring and is made up of thin-walled cells. The darker band, called latewood, is formed during the fall and is made up of thick-walled cells. Together the earlywood and latewood form an annual growth ring. These rings are what you count to get the tree's age.

Imagine you were a tree and we had a cross section of you. Use the space below to draw this cross section. Remember to include as many rings as you are old and a strong, outer bark to protect you from the weather. If you grew a lot in one year, make that ring farther apart from the year before!

