



# WHAT CAN A TREE TELL YOU?

A forest is a library and every tree tells a story

March 15 & 16, 2019

**STEAM FAIR @ LA County Fairplex**



The  
Cultural & Natural History Collections  
of the University of La Verne

# ASK A TREE . . . IT WAS THERE

## Want to know about Climate Change?



**First Step!!**  
Know the  
difference  
between

**Weather**

vs.

**Climate**

vs.

**ClimateChange**

**How hot is it  
today?**

Weather: the day-to-day condition of the atmosphere. It's the temperature, precipitation, cloudiness, and wind in the next minutes to weeks.

**What will the  
rainfall be in 100  
years?**

Climate: the weather in terms of years, decades, and centuries. It's the range of weather from normal to extreme for a location over a long period of time.

**Climate Change**

A long-term change in the Earth's overall weather patterns with massive and permanent effects.



Follow us @ulvcollections

# A TREE'S STORY IS IN ITS RINGS



## Tree Rings are like a Clock

If you have ever counted the rings on a tree stump you are on your way to learning the story a tree can tell you about climate.

When you look at tree rings, you may know that a light ring (summer growth) and a dark ring (winter growth) make one year. Wet seasons will have wider ring sets while dry seasons will give the tree thinner ring sets.

The older the tree the more data you can collect from it. The oldest trees provide a history of the climate over their lifespan.

Can you read tree rings?

**Our example of tree rings was cut down in 2015. How old was the tree when it was cut down?**

**How old were you in 2015?**

**Counting backwards, find the tree ring of your birth year.**

**Find a wet year. How wide is the tree ring?**

**Find a dry year. How wide is the tree ring?**



Follow us @ulvcollections

# TREES ARE INSPIRATION

“I think that I shall  
never see a poem as  
lovely as a tree.”

from *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer



## TREES in Art and Literature:

Poetry

Paintings

Music

Stories

Folk Tales

Movies

### In Poetry:

*The Wishing Tree*  
by Kathleen  
Jamie

### In Movies:

Groot in  
*Guardians of the  
Galaxy*

The Whomping  
Willow in *Harry  
Potter*

### In Paintings:

*Mulberry Tree*, by  
Vincent Van  
Gogh

*Women in a  
Garden* by Pierre  
Auguste Renoir

### In Folk Tales:

*The Gift of Kue*, a  
legend from  
Hawaii

### In Music:

*Lemon Tree* by  
Peter, Paul & Mary

*The Lumberjack  
Song* by Monty  
Python

### In Stories:

*The Giving Tree*  
by Shel  
Silverstein

*A Tree Grows in  
Brooklyn* by Hana  
Glasser



Follow us @ulvcollections