

## California Yosemite National Park Activity

# TREE RING CIRCUS

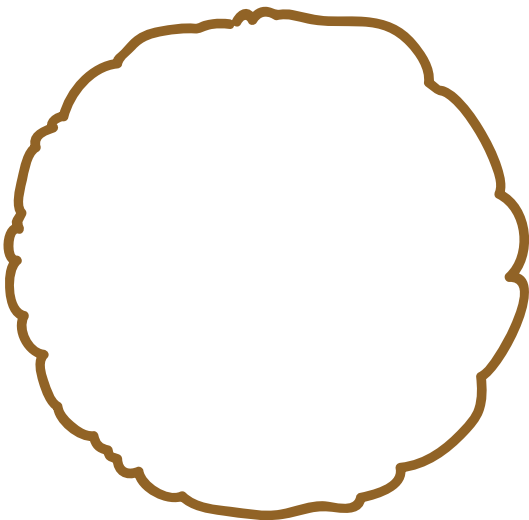
Step right up and see the amazing sequoia trees perform their age-defying acts! They can live to be THOUSANDS of years old and grow hundreds of feet tall.

Yosemite National Park is home to the Grizzly Giant, a sequoia estimated to be about 2,700 years old. This shady old soul lives in the Mariposa Grove, is 209 feet tall, and is 92.5 feet around the base of the trunk. Some Giant Sequoias can live up to 3,000 years and have bark that is up to 3 feet thick!



### Can you estimate how old this tree is by counting its rings?

Each ring represents one year. The outside rings, near the bark, are the youngest. Scientists who take core samples of trees to learn their age are called dendrochronologists. (dendro=tree; chronology=time)



**Now, create a tree-ring cross-section that's as old as you are.** (Hint: if you are 10, you'll add 10 rings.)

Be sure to personalize your tree rings by decorating them with your favorite colors, patterns, or words.

Then use the space to make one for each of your family members.