Stepping Forward: Countryside Management

Tree Estimation

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Height and age estimation of Trees

Our course aims to introduce learners to the skills and knowledge used in Countryside management and how these can be applied in practice.

This will be the beginning of building a skill set that will increase your employability within your chosen industry. People employed in managing woodlands must have knowledge and skills relating to tree identification and management.

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They must understand the positive and negative influences that different species of tree have and the potential conflicts between urban and rural woodland management.

This task is surrounding Woodland Management and will give you an introduction into some content you will study during your time at Bishop Burton College, many woodland managers within commercial Woodland Management rely on a multitude of gadgets to able them to estimate the height and age of trees under their care. Allowing you to estimate the height and age of a tree with basic tools that you can find in your own kitchen draw at home.

Task 1. How tall is that tree?

Equipment

1. Pencil and pad
2. Tape measure
3. Friend
4. Tree ID guide or app

Method

1. Locate your tree (this can be any tree as long as you have access to the tree)
2. This is the tricky part, get your friend to stand at the foot of the tree and using your pencil at arm's length walk backwards until when looking at the pencil it is the same height as the tree
3. Now rotate the pencil 90 degrees and get your friend to walk to the end of the pencil (see diagram below) and mark the spot.
4. Then use the tape measure, measure from the tree to the spot marked by your friend.

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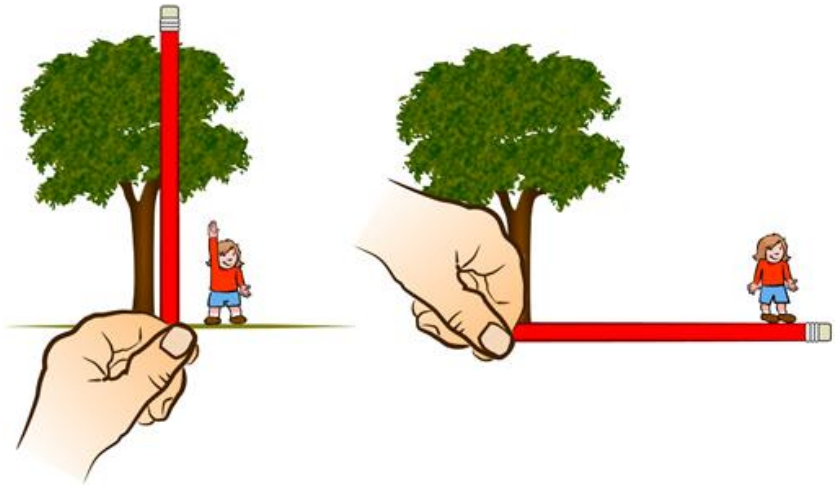

this this will give you an estimate of how tall the tree is

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Task 2. How old is the tree?

Equipment

1. String or fabric tape measure (depending on size of tree a long piece of string is better)
2. Tape measure
3. Pencil and pad
4. Tree ID guide or app

Method

1. At chest height (this is the industry standard) wrap the string around the tree.
2. Mark where the string touches.
3. Once you have marked the string you can then measure the length of the string this represents the girth/circumference of the tree

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Now for the maths

Roughly every 2.5cm of girth/circumference represents 1yrs growth. So, divide the circumference of the tree by 2.5.

So, if a tree had a girth/circumference of 40cm the tree would be 16yrs old.

Remember these only give an estimate of a trees height and age
Whilst doing these tasks why not brush up on your tree ID.

Let us know how you get on take a picture and send it in with your name, where the tree is, its height and age (estimates) and what species you think the tree is good luck.

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