

ESTIMATING THE HEIGHT OF A TREE

WHY TREE DIMENSIONS ARE IMPORTANT?

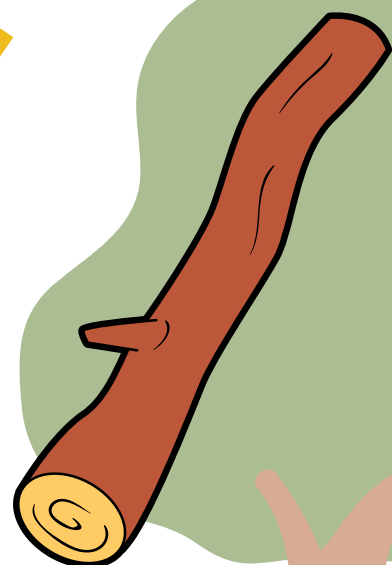
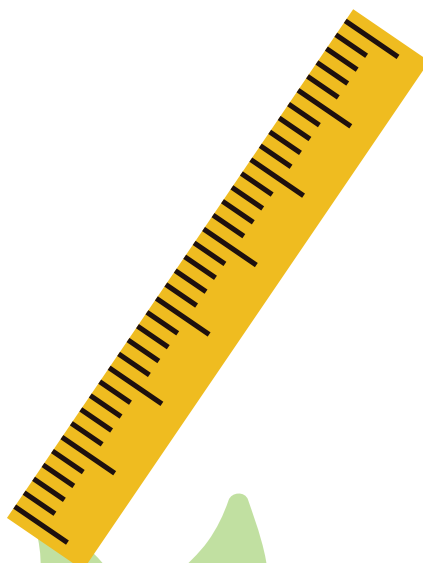
There are many reasons that tree heights and dimensions need to be taken and recorded, this could be for including them in a scale plan or design, to check their health and canopy cover, to gain a better understanding of trees and the birds that nest in them at certain heights.

TOOLS FOR THE TASK

Meter rule (or stick)

Tape measure

Paper



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TAKING AN ESTIMATION (SEE WEBSITE VIDEO PAGE)

1. Choose the tree of which you want to estimate the height of.
2. With a meter stick (or ordinary stick), extend your arm and lay the measuring stick from your shoulder, grasp the measure where it lies in your hand.
3. Hold the measure/stick vertical without letting go or moving your hand from where you are holding the stick.
4. Walk backwards until the tip of the measure/stick lines up with the top of the tree and your thumb/hand is at the base of the tree (keeping your arm parallel to the ground and the measure/stick vertical), then stop.
5. Measure or pace out the distance from the person holding the stick to the base of the tree.
6. This gives you the approximate height of the tree.

EXTENSION

Calculate the trees approximate age

Divide the circumference of your chosen tree (measuring around the trunk where its closest to the ground) by one of the following figures, to calculate the age.

1.88 for oak, 2.50 for hazel, ash and beech, 2.75 for sycamore, 3.13 for pine and spruce

If your tree is not in the list above use 2.50