Tales of Two Trees

NAME _____ DATE_____

Draw growth rings in the blank tree cookies to match each story.

The Forest Tree's Tale

Once upon a time, a tree grew in the forest. **In its first 10 years**, it grew slowly because the large trees overhead blocked the sunlight.

In its 11th year, a large tree next to it blew down in a storm. This allowed sunlight to reach the little tree, and for the next 10 years it grew rapidly.

In its 21st and 22nd years, there was a severe drought, and the tree could not get enough water. This stress caused the tree to grow very slowly for three years.

In its 25th year, favorable conditions returned, and the tree grew normally for 15 years.

In its 40th year, wildfire raged through the forest. The tree's thick bark enabled it to survive, but it was deeply scarred. It grew slowly for several years after that.

Year 45 was particularly bad. Bark beetles got under its skin, fungus entered its body through woodpecker holes, and caterpillars ate most of its leaves. For five years, the tree hardly grew at all and became very weak.

In its 50th year, it blew down in a storm. A science teacher found the fallen tree and used a chainsaw to make a big tree cookie from the trunk.

NAME _____ DATE_____

The Urban Tree's Tale

Once upon a time, a tree seedling was planted on an urban street close to a school.

In the first two years after the tree was planted, there was not much rain. Since the tree's root system was not very developed, it grew very slowly.

In the third year, there was lots of rainfall and the tree grew rapidly.

In the fourth year, a car backed into the trunk of the tree, tearing off parts of the bark and leaving some of the trunk exposed.

In the fifth year, students from the school adopted the street tree. They watered it weekly and placed trunk-protecting mesh around it so that it could heal from its injury.

Add to Urban Tree's Tale, describing events for each of these years that follow. Add these rings to your drawing.

In the sixth year... _____

_____

In the eighth year ..._____

_____

In the 15th year ..._____

_____

In the 20th year ..._____

_____

Source: Jessica Kratz, Greenbelt Conservancy, Staten Island, NY.

CAREER CORNER

I LOVE MY **GREEN JOB**!

URBAN FORESTERS plant, care for, and protect the trees in a city. Urban forests provide shade, improve air quality, reduce energy use, absorb carbon dioxide, and add beauty to the community.