**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Tree Rings**
Use the Tree Cookie to answer the questions.



a. This tree was cut 3 years ago. Write that year:

b. How old was the tree?

c. What year did the tree start growing?

d. Find the ring that grew the year you were born. Was it a wet or dry year?

e. In what year of growth was there the least rainfall?

f. In what year of growth was there the most rainfall?

 **5. Reading the Rings**
To help figure out what climate the tree grew in and what the environment was like, look at each ring:

* **Thickness**
How wide a ring is can tell you if the environment was good or bad for the tree to grow in.
In years when the amount of rain and temperature were good a tree's rings are wider.
In bad years a tree's rings are thinner.
* **Shape**
If rings become thinner on one side than the other it means the tree is leaning over to one side.
High winds or a big storm can cause a tree to lean.
* **Strange Marks**
Dr. Fir also looks for strange marks, like scars, and other "*pieces of evidence.*"
Scars can be left by insects or disease. A forest fire can leave burnt marks.

**Reading the Rings (continued)**
Look at these cross sections and match them to the event that caused them.

