# **VOLCANOES!**

# **Activity Sheet 5.1a Dating A Volcanic Eruption**

Have you ever looked at a tree stump and noticed its rings? Count the rings and you will know how old the tree is. Each ring represents 1 year in the life of the tree.

If you look closely at **tree rings**, however, you will see that the spaces between rings vary in width. Trees do not grow the same amount each year.

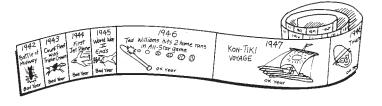
#### What to do

You can "read" these tree rings and find out what year there was an eruption of Mount Katmai in Alaska.

### What you know:

- 1. This tree was growing 48 kilometers (29 miles) northwest of Katmai Volcano.
- 2. After the eruption, the forests were blanketed in ash.
- 3. This tree's growth decreased for some years after the eruption, but then it increased.
- 4. This tree was cut down in 1962.

Make a time line for the years that this tree was alive. Research and record events that occurred during the tree's life.



## What you want to find out:

1. The tree's age:

(Count the number of rings from the center of the tree to the bark. Each dark band represents 10 years.)

2. The year the tree started to grow:

1962 –	=	
the year	the age	the year
the tree was	of the tree	the tree started
cut down		to grow

3. The year of the eruption:

(Count the number of rings from the center to the first thin ring.)

4. The number of years the tree's growth decreased:

(Count the number of thin tree rings)

5. The number of years the tree's growth increased:

(Count the number of wide rings.)

6. Why do you think the tree's growth increased?