

Tree trunk cross-section

Sapwood – the living outer wood of the plant

Growth ring – equal to one year, with pale earlywood and dark latewood

Ray – carries nutrients laterally through the wood

Knot – blemish from broken off limbs or sprout branches

Pith – small central core

Heartwood – central dead wood, giving the tree support and strength

Crack – as moisture is released, wood shrinks and cracks appear

Bark – insulates and protects

Cambium – a thin layer of new tissue

Phloem – transports nutrients to parts of plant



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