

# Discovering the Ancients

## Focus Plants

**Question:** Can measuring desert plants over a period of time yield reliable growth patterns for age estimates?

**Hypothesis:** Measuring the following characteristics of listed desert plants and recording these measurements over an extended period of time will reveal patterns in the data which will allow us to estimate ages and growth rates of plants in the Mojave and Colorado deserts.

Plant	Required Measurements								
	Plant Height	Plant Diameter at widest spread	Circum. of trunk or stem crown	Diameter of trunk or stem crown	# of Live Stalks	# of Dead Stalks	# of Branch Tips	# of Pads	Average Diameter across clonal ring
Bigberry Manzanita	X	X	X	X					
Blackbrush	X	X	X	X					
California Buckwheat	X	X	X	X					
Catclaw Acacia	X	X	X	X					
Creosote	X	X	X	X					X
Desert Willow	X	X	X	X					
Holly-leaf Cherry	X	X	X	X					
Honey Mesquite	X	X	X	X					
Ironwood	X	X	X	X					
Juniper	X	X	X	X					
Jojoba	X	X	X	X					
Joshua Tree	X	X	X	X			X		
Mojave Yucca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Ephedra (Mormon Tea)	X	X	X	X					
Nolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
PaperBag Bush	X	X	X	X					
Pinyon Pine	X	X	X	X					
Scrub Oak	X	X	X	X					
Cactus (specify type)	X	X	X	X				X	

