

Absolute v. Relative Dating

Absolute Provides a numerical, calendar date for a sample, artifact or site.

Relative Comparative methods which don't provide a numerical date.

Dendrochronology

Dating wood specimens in comparison to a known master series for the species. Can provide a date accurate to the nearest year.

Absolute If a master series is available, then the dating will be absolute.

and relative A comparison of locally available wood will provide relative dating.

Case study - *Pueblo Arroyo*

Dendrochronology used to establish different periods of construction (1070s and 1100s).

Also provided information about demographics - population growth estimated through spatial studies analysing how many people were living per room.

Accuracy - Tree rings can be skipped during tree growth.

e.g. junipers have been used for dendrochronological dating in the past, but are now considered a particularly inaccurate species.