

Radiocarbon Dating



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Radiocarbon dating is a method used by archeologists to figure out how old something is. This method only works on organic artifacts – things that were once alive. All living things absorb carbon from the air they breathe and the food they eat. After an organism dies, the carbon in their body slowly decreases at a constant rate. The amount of carbon left when that object is tested by archeologists tells them how long it has been buried. This method is used in the Chesapeake to date things like beans, shells, bones, and wood ash from fires.