

# THE OLDEST LIVING THING



Trees live much longer than people or any animal on this earth. These trees are so large that you cannot throw your arms around them. The oldest tree on earth is the more than 5000 years old bristlecone pine tree that lives in the mountains in the state of Nevada.

“This composite is the result of 4 photos combined in the High Dynamic range (HDR) process to better portray the range of light and dark areas. The Great Basin bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) are among the oldest of living things, with some having been determined to be older than 5,000 years. This species is found in Utah, Nevada, and eastern California, and this photograph was taken at about 11,000 feet (3350 m) in the White Mountains of eastern California. The wood is very resinous and can withstand drought, numbing cold, and assault by insects. The needles may stay on the tree for more than 50 years. Most of the trees at just below tree line display large areas of dead wood.”

1. What is the name of the oldest tree in the world?

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2. How old is this living thing?

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3. Why is this tree so old?

- It is always getting the right amount of water.
- It is prehistoric and so no insect is attacking it.
- It is resinous and can withstand drought, numbing cold and assault by insects.