



Nature | Education

GET TO KNOW
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GRAB N' GO ACTIVITY:
Fallen Log

OVERVIEW:

In this activity, kids will gain an understanding of how decomposition takes place and a better appreciation for micro habitats and communities.

MATERIALS:

- Old Fallen Log
- Magnifying Glass/lense
- Paper/Notebooks
- Pencil

EXTRA LEARNING:

Back inside, have the kids use their notes and sketches to identify the creatures they were unable to identify in the field.



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SOURCED & ADAPTED FROM: <http://www.forestfoundation.org/nature-activity--the-fallen-log>

Ages: 5 - 10

Time: 30 - 45 minutes

PROCEDURE:

Step 1: Begin by asking the kids why forests aren't piled high with fallen trees, branches, and leaves. What happens to trees after they die? Tell the kids that they're going to examine dead logs to find answers to those questions.

Step 2: Help kids develop a list of additional questions to explore during their investigation, such as:

- How might the tree have died?
- Has the tree been dead a long time or a fairly short time?
- What kinds of animals live on the bark? Under the bark? Inside the log? Under the log?
- Where do these animals get the food they need?
- Do any plants live on the log? How can they live without soil? Kids will look for evidence to help answer these questions

Step 3: Encourage kids to look for the following as

- Evidence of animal activities:
- Insect holes
- Spider webs
- Woodpecker holes
- Animal dens
- Animal tracks
- Piles of sawdust
- Patterns in the wood under the bark.

Step 4: They should note which of the plants and animals that they found around their log also live in these areas. Kids might use a digital camera to take pictures of the log and the area around it.