



# Campbell Creek Science Center

## Investigate a Fallen Log

Have you ever inspected a dead tree on the ground? In this activity you'll take a closer look at the amazing things living on and under a fallen log.

### Directions

1. Take a walk outside to find a soft, rotting log on the forest floor. When you find one, get down on your hands and knees and take a closer look.
2. Investigate the surface of the log.
  - Are there any plants or mosses growing on the log?
  - What evidence do you see of insects, fungi, or bacteria?
  - If you have a magnifying glass, use it to get a closer look.
3. Carefully roll the log over to reveal the underside. Notice if pieces of the rotting log look like soil. These are areas where decomposers like worms, insects, and fungi have helped break down the log into smaller pieces.
4. Look at the ground where the log used to lie. What evidence of living things do you find there? When you have completed your observations, very carefully roll the log back into place.



### Materials

- Magnifying lens (optional)
- Paper and pencil (optional)

### Questions

- What happens to a dead tree on the forest floor?
- What new or unexpected things did you find on or underneath the log?

### Optional Extensions

- Use your paper and pencil to draw what you see. Can you identify everything that you found? If not, how could you find out what it is?
- Create an acrostic poem based on your observations of the log. Each line of the poem should start with a letter that, when read top to bottom, spells out a word.

Example Acrostic:  
**LOG**  
Lying on the ground  
Old and decaying,  
Giving new life.

