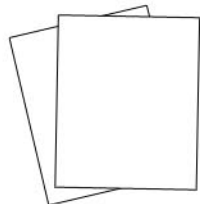


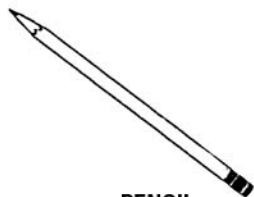
What Lives Under That Dead Tree?

Trees in forests are homes for lots of creatures in nature, even after they die and fall down. There are a whole bunch of plants and animals that only live under dead trees and piles of mulch or leaves. They help to “decompose” the tree, or break it down, using it for food and shelter. Rocks can provide shelter in the same way.

Things You’ll Need:



PAPER



PENCIL



CLEAR CONTAINERS WITH LIDS

Jars, plastic bags
or containers



OPTIONAL STUFF

Camera, magnifying lens, and field guides
for insects, mosses, lichens and fungi

Go to the forest and look at what’s under a fallen tree or rock, or look under a pile of leaves in your own yard. You’ll see mosses, fungi, lichens, and other plants growing there. You might also see small animals living there.

Try to draw what they look like and look them up in a field guide or on the internet. If the animals move too fast to draw them, take a picture, or make a sketch of what your impression is. For small animals, try to catch them and put them in a container for enough time to draw them or identify them. Then carefully put them back where you found them and replace their shelter.

At some point in their lives, 40%
of all forest animals are dependent
on standing or fallen dead trees
for some of their habitat needs.

DID YOU KNOW?