



DISCOVER DECOMPOSERS

How does nature recycle nutrients from dead plants and animals?
Is this process happening in my urban forest park?

Be sure to check out other tip sheets, videos and fun activities posted at cityparksfoundation.org

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SENSORY DISCOVERIES: LIFE UNDER A ROTTING LOG

FIND A LOG OR BRANCH LYING ON THE GROUND AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

THE TOP OF THE LOG	Touch the surface of the log. How does it feel? <input type="checkbox"/> Hard <input type="checkbox"/> Soft <input type="checkbox"/> Moist <input type="checkbox"/> Dry
THE BOTTOM OF THE LOG	Carefully roll the log over and touch the bottom of the log. How does it feel? <input type="checkbox"/> Hard <input type="checkbox"/> Soft <input type="checkbox"/> Moist <input type="checkbox"/> Dry
THE SOIL UNDER THE LOG	Describe the color of the soil under the log: _____ Touch the soil, how does it feel? <input type="checkbox"/> Hard <input type="checkbox"/> Soft <input type="checkbox"/> Moist <input type="checkbox"/> Dry

SENSORY DISCOVERIES: LIFE UNDER THE LEAF LITTER

FIND AN AREA OF LEAF LITTER AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

THE LEAVES ON THE TOP	Touch the surface of the log. How does it feel? <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Small Piece <input type="checkbox"/> Un-Eaten <input type="checkbox"/> Eaten <input type="checkbox"/> Moist <input type="checkbox"/> Dry
THE LEAVES ON THE BOTTOM	How do the leaves on the bottom of the pile look and feel? <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Small Piece <input type="checkbox"/> Un-Eaten <input type="checkbox"/> Eaten <input type="checkbox"/> Moist <input type="checkbox"/> Dry
THE SOIL UNDER THE LEAF LITTER	Describe the color of the soil under the log: _____ Touch the soil, how does it feel? <input type="checkbox"/> Hard <input type="checkbox"/> Soft <input type="checkbox"/> Moist <input type="checkbox"/> Dry

DECOMPOSER COUNT

IDENTIFY AND RECORD THE DECOMPOSERS YOU SEE ON THIS TALLY CHART.

NAME OF ORGANISM	TALLY	TOTAL
MUSHROOM/FUNGUS		
MILLIPEDE		
CENTIPEDE		
BEETLE		
EARTHWORM		
TERMITE		
CRICKET		
COCKROACH		
PILL BUG		
SOW BUG		
SLUG		
SNAIL		

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WHAT LIVES IN THE SOIL



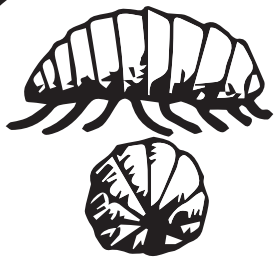
SOW BUG



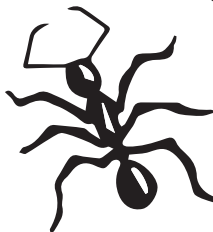
BEETLE



MITE



PILL BUG



ANT



GRUB



SLUG



EARTHWORM

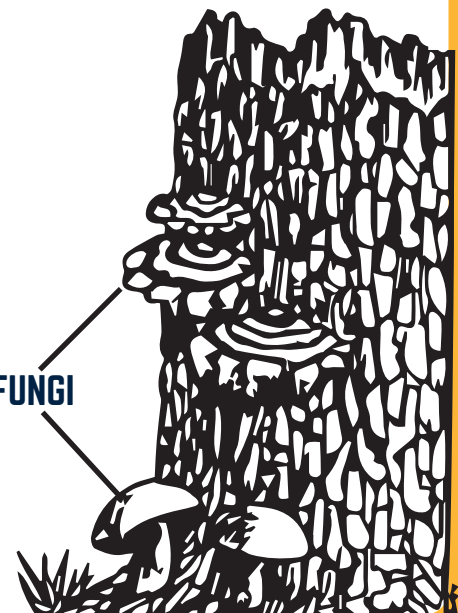


CENTIPEDE



MILLIPEDE

FUNGI



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